(1)

OBSERVATIONS
IN
DEFENCE OF A BILL
LATELY BROUGHT INTO PARLIAMENT,
FOR ERECTING THE
CORPORATION OF SURGEONS OF LONDON
INTO A COLLEGE;
AND
FOR GRANTING AND CONFIRMING TO SUCH COLLEGE
CERTAIN RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES:
INCLUDING A SKETCH OF THE
HISTORY OF SURGERY IN ENGLAND.

By THOMAS CHEVALIER, A. M.
A MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION.

Reprehendant homines quantum libuerit, modò attendant et perpendant quæ dicuntur. Appellatio sanè legitima fuerit (licet res fortaſſe ea minùs indigebit) ſi a primis cogitationibus hominum ad ſecundas provocetur, et ab ævo præſenti ad poſteros.

Bacon. de Augment. Scient. Lib. VIII.

SECOND EDITION.

London:

Printed for J. JOHNSON, St. Paul's Church Yard; and J. DEBRETT, oppoſite Burlington Houſe, Piccadilly.

1797.

Price TWO SHILLINGS and SIXPENCE.

[Entered at Stationers Hall.]

BRITISH MUSEUM
30 NOV 53

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of the following pages attended the meeting which was convened at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, on Monday the 8th of May laſt, to conſider of the propriety of oppoſing the Surgeons Bill: But being ſoon convinced that the objections made againſt it were of no force, he thought it his duty, at the next meeting, which was on the Wedneſday following, to ſtate his view of the queſtion, and was candidly permitted to do ſo. Some Gentlemen preſent agreed with him in opinion; a greater number did not: This determined him to enquire more fully into the ſubject; and the many harſh and unfair things which have ſince been ſaid, and the groſs miſtakes which are gone abroad reſpecting it, have made him reſolve to lay the reſult of his enquiries before the public.

OBSERVATIONS,

&c.

THE Bill which was brought into Parliament during the laſt Seſſion, for erecting the Corporation of Surgeons of London into a College, has been ſo much miſrepreſented by its opponents, that it is neceſſary to ſtate to the Public the occaſion of its introduction, and the purpoſes it was intended to anſwer.

An Act was paſſed in the eighteenth year of his late Majeſty King George the Second, by which the Barbers and Surgeons of London were ſeparated into two diſtinct Corporations. By a clauſe in this Act, it was made neceſſary to have the preſence of two Governors out of the three*, at every meeting of the Court of Aſſiſtants, in order to legalize the tranſactions of that meeting. At the Court held in rotation on the firſt Thurſday in July, 1796, for

 the

* The Maſter and the two Wardens are called Governors.

the purpoſe of electing officers for the enſuing year, not more than one Governor could poſſibly attend. One had very ſuddenly died: the other was paralytic, at a conſiderable diſtance from town; and an attempt to remove him was thought to be in the higheſt degree dangerous and improper. The choice of officers therefore unavoidably took place without him; an illegal act was of neceſſity committed, and a deficiency aroſe in the Conſtitution of the Company, which it was neceſſary to ſupply; and, if poſſible, to prevent it from occurring in future.

At this time ſeveral other circumſtances exiſted, which had led the Court of Aſſiſtants to think of an application to Parliament for a new act. That of the 18th of George II. only empowered the Company to hold the yearly value of £200. in freehold property, without incurring the penalties of the ſtatute of Mortmain; a ſum by no means equal to their annual expenditure. The hall which they occupied in the Old Bailey was in a very ruinous ſtate; requiring, in the opinion of a ſurveyor, who had accurately examined it, near £2000. to put it in proper repair. It was moreover inconvenient, held on a leaſe of which fifty-five years only were unexpired; inhabited at an expence of £500. per annum, including the value of the money laid out in the building; which expence would have been greatly increaſed by the repair:

repair, and the ſum expended wholly loſt to the company, unleſs they were to renew their leaſe at an increaſed rent, in conſequence of their own improvements.

It was therefore thought adviſable to ſeek for a more commodious houſe, in a more eligible ſituation, and if poſſible, a freehold. The houſe lately occupied by Mr. Baldwin in Lincoln's-inn-fields being ſhortly after offered for ſale, and poſſeſſing all theſe recommendations, it was purchaſed, and veſted in truſtees for the benefit of the Company, till the reſtrictions they lay under with regard to the ſtatute of Mortmain ſhould be taken off.

Further, The act paſſed in the 32d year of Henry VIII. (A. D. 1541) had inflicted a penalty of five pounds per month on all who practiſed Surgery, without their licence and authority, within the City of London, and one mile thereof; and the patent of Charles I. given in the year 1629, had extended their juriſdiction to ſeven miles round London: But this article not having been formally inſerted in the act of the 18th of George II. great doubts were entertained of the Company's power to proſecute offenders. It was therefore neceſſary to make this clear; and the increaſe of population in the vicinity of the metropolis, with the decreaſe in the value of money, made it ſeem proper to extend the juriſdiction to ten miles, and to increaſe the

penalty to ten pounds, in order to fulfil the purpoſes originally intended by them.

Laſtly, The Societies of Surgeons in Edinburgh and Dublin had both been incorporated as Colleges; a title certainly more ſuitable to a ſcientific body, who have no commercial intereſt to ſupport, than that of a Company, or Corporation. It was therefore natural to wiſh that the Surgeons in London ſhould enjoy an equal degree of rank with them; eſpecially as they were a much older, and had been a more beneficial company to the public, than either of the former.

To theſe alterations in their favour it was thought the company had ſome claim. For excluſive of the advancement made in chirurgical knowledge by many of its members, and the benefit reſulting from thence to the public at large; the Court of Examiners had, ever ſince the act of the 18th of George II. was paſſed, examined, without any perſonal reward, all the army and navy Surgeons and Surgeons Mates, and had made a proviſion of eighty pounds per annum, out of the company's funds, for a courſe of lectures on Practical Surgery, to be given gratis to the gentlemen intended for thoſe ſervices*.

On

* The trouble of examining Surgeons and their Mates for the army and navy ſervices was at firſt but trifling, but

On theſe grounds therefore a Petition was preſented to the Houſe of Commons, on the 23d of February laſt, ſigned by a majority of the Court of Aſſiſtants, and on the 20th of March following*, a bill was brought in, containing the following proviſions for the more eaſy and regular tranſaction of buſineſs in future, and the greater reſpectability of the members of the corporation.

I. That the Corporation ſhould be erected into a College; that the names of its officers ſhould be changed, and inſtead of Maſter, Wardens, Examiners, and Aſſiſtants, be called Preſident, Vice Preſidents, Cenſors, and Council. But though the names were changed, the number, power, and duties of each, reſpectively and together, were to remain exactly the ſame.

II.

but at length it has become very conſiderable. In time of war the Examiners are obliged to meet every fortnight for that purpoſe, let their profeſſional or other engagements be what they may; aud often examine from twenty to forty perſons in an evening. A duty of no ſmall inconvenience and fatigue; as it falls and muſt fall, only on thoſe who are at the head of the profeſſion, and are in the moſt extenſive practice.

* I take theſe dates from the *St. James's Chronicle* of February the 25th and March the 21ſt.

II. The ſecond and principal article was, That buſineſs might in future be legally tranſacted in the preſence of ONE Preſident or Vice Preſident, and four Cenſors; and that if ever the Preſident and both the Vice Preſidents ſhould happen to be dead at the ſame time, the ſenior ſurviving Cenſor might convene a Council for the election of others in their ſtead.

III. That the College thus conſtituted might be able to hold freehold property of the yearly value of one thouſand pounds, (the ſum allowed to the Colleges of Edinburgh and Dublin) without incurring any of the penalties of the ſtatute of Mortmain.

IV. That the juriſdiction of the Court of Examiners (or Cenſors) ſhould be extended to ten miles round London, but with reſpect to future ſettlers only in the additional three miles; and that the penalty for practiſing Surgery without their authority, ſhould be increaſed from five pounds per month, to ten.

There was alſo a clauſe confirming the endowment for a courſe of chirurgical lectures; and directing thoſe lectures to be given by one of the members of the Council: and another clauſe which required

required the candidates applying for examination, to be of the age of twenty-one years.

In every other reſpect the Bill reſembled the old Act.

It paſſed through the Houſe of Commons, after undergoing ſome amendments in its phraſeology, and was on the point of being read a third time in the Houſe of Lords, when a ſudden and unexpected oppoſition aroſe from ſome members of the company, which was conducted with great warmth and perſeverance, and at length occaſioned it to be loſt; at leaſt till a future application can be made.

As, in the courſe of this oppoſition, much has been ſaid, not only to miſrepreſent and traduce the Bill itſelf, and thoſe who petitioned for it, but alſo to procure a total overthrow of that Conſtitution of the Company, which has ſubſiſted for more than half a century, with eminent advantage to the profeſſion, and to the public at large; and to ſubſtitute in its ſtead a ſpeculative and untried ſcheme, dreſſed up after the frippery of modern times; it is neceſſary to diſcuſs the objections that have been ſtarted, that the public in general, and the Legiſlature in particular, may have a moreample ſtatement of the caſe before them.

But in order to do this with the greater advantage, and to ſhow the propriety of our enjoying the honour that has been ſolicited, it will be proper to enter a little into the Hiſtory of the Company, and briefly to conſider what Surgery is, and what progreſs it has made. This is the more needful, becauſe a noble and very learned Lord, whoſe great talents and able ſervices have rendered him deſervedly high in the public eſteem, has not thought it beneath him to treat the profeſſion at large with the moſt pointed ſarcaſm and contempt. I hope it will appear that his Lordſhip was miſtaken on this occaſion, and that his ridicule was both undeſerved and miſapplied.

The former connection of the Surgeons Company with the Barbers, has afforded many perſons a plentiful ſubject for deriſion. I ſhall therefore firſt endeavour to trace out the origin of that connection.

If every thing is to be deſpiſed which was ſmall or obſcure in its beginning, perhaps we ſhall not find much in human affairs to command our reſpect. Arts and Arms, Legiſlation and Commerce, have all emerged from rude and imperfect efforts; and every branch of Science has at ſome period been polluted with weakneſs. inconſiſtency, and folly.

But

But it is the object of a Science, and not the ſtate of it, from which we are to eſtimate its importance. The latter depends on a variety of circumſtances, which are ſubject to great uncertainty. The Spirit of the times, and the patronage of the public muſt concur with the genius and induſtry of individuals, or few advances can be made in a profeſſion like Surgery, which, however contemptible it may appear to thoſe who do not underſtand it, opens on every path of human enquiry, and calls for the cloſe and perſevering reflection of a vigorous and comprehenſive mind.

But the ſpirit of the times, in this and the neighbouring countries, was long before it looked with a foſtering eye on any part of medical Science. For many centuries Phyſic was almoſt entirely in the hands of the clergy, who by involving it in ſuperſtition, found it a very profitable employ, and in many inſtances an introduction to preferment*. Surgery lay under greater diſadvantages; a principal part of it, the care of the wounded and lame, being commonly entruſted to women, and ignorant pretenders†. We are told indeed that when Galen came from Pergamos to Rome, near the cloſe of the ſecond century, he found it practiſed there as a ſeparate branch of the medical art‡.

* See Rymer's Fædera, Tom. II. p. 1035—1036. Tom. X. p. 263, &c. † Paſquier, Recherches de la France, p. 862. ‡ Bernier, p. 2. c. iii.

But this cuſtom was ſoon loſt in the convulſions which overthrew that empire; and it is not till towards the middle of the twelfth century, that we find any traces, either in hiſtory or romance, of its forming a diſtinct profeſſion in papal Europe*.

It will be neceſſary to trouble the Reader with a ſhort detail of the circumſtances by which this alteration was brought about; as it will enable him to account for the inconſiderable appearance of our early Profeſſors.

When the Univerſity of Paris, the foundation of which had been laid by Charlemagne†, began to aſſume a more regular form under the reign of Louis the Seventh, a Faculty of Medicine was ſoon added to the former three of Divinity, Arts, and Decrees. In conſequence of this ſome able men began to ſtudy Hippocrates and Galen, whoſe writings were alſo read in the public exerciſes. The novelty of theſe Lectures occaſioned many of the Clerical Phyſicians to neglect their religious duties in order to attend them. This neglect ſoon grew to ſuch an exceſs, that in a Council held at Tours by Pope Alexander the Third, in 1163, the following mandate was iſſued: *Statuimus ut nulli omnino poſt votum religionis, et poſt factam in aliquo loco profeſſionem* AD PHYSICAM, *legeſve mundanas*

* Paſquier, p. 818. † Bulæi Hiſt. Univ. Par. Tom. I.

*mundanas, permittatur exire. Si vero exierint, et ad clauſtrum ſuum intra duorum menſium ſpatium non redierint, ſicut excommunicati ab omnibus evitentur**. This was afterwards repeated by Honorius III. about the year 1216†.

In conſequence of this reſtriction, a few laymen were encouraged to apply to the ſtudy of phyſic; but as the Univerſity would not receive them without a vow of celibacy, moſt of them became prieſts when they had finiſhed their ſtudies‡.

The prieſts being now forbidden to leave their cloiſters, were for the moſt part conſulted at home. The ſervants or friends of the ſick uſed to carry their urine and other excrements to them§, with as good an account as they could give of the indiſpoſition; the Phyſicians of courſe directed what medicines

 were

* Paſquier ut ſupra. † Bulæi Hiſt. Univ. Par. Tom. II. p. 575.

‡ V. Recherches ſur l'Origine, &c. de la Chirurgie en France—and Du Boulay, paſſim.

§ In alluſion to this cuſtom Hugues de Berci, who lived, according to Moreri, about 1250, thus pays off the Phyſicians, who began to aſſume the name of *Phyſici* and *Fiſiciens* at that time,

" Fiſiciens ſont appellez,
" Sans fy ne ſont ils point nommez;
" De fy doit toute ordure naitre,
" Et de fy Fiſique doit eſtre.
" De fy Fiſique me deffie,
" Fol eſt qui en tel art ſe fie,
" Ou il n' a rien qui n'y ait fy,
" Donc ſuis je fol ſi je m'y fy."

Paſquier, p. 722.

were to be taken, and in caſe of external diſeaſes, what applications were to be employed. In the latter caſe, it was moſt uſual for them to ſend their own ſervants, (who acted as their Barbers*) to perform what was neceſſary; for cold applications to the head, previouſly ſhaved, formed then a very principal remedy in many diſeaſes. Many of theſe men therefore become wholly employed in viſiting the ſick for the Phyſicians, in bleeding, and the inferior operations of Surgery, all of which were conſidered as too indelicate for the ſacred function†, and in time obtained from hence a good degree of the confidence of the public; juſt as the ſervants of apothecaries frequently do at this day. The capital operations, of which very few indeed were then performed, were commonly entruſted to the lay-ſcholars of the Univerſities, who had ſtudied phyſic, but had not been permitted to become members of the Faculty, not having taken the vow of celibacy. Theſe however were few; ſo that the clergy occaſionally intermeddled with this branch of practice, till at length, by two decrees, the firſt iſſued by Pope Boniface VIII. at the cloſe of the thirteenth century, and the ſecond by Pope Clement V. at Avignon, near the beginning of the fourteenth

* Pope Alexander III. had at this time revived the canon firſt iſſued by the Synod of Carthage, reſpecting Clerical Tonſure. Vide Hotomanni Παγωνιας, p. 27.

† " L'Egliſe n'abhorre rien tant que le ſang," ſays Paſquier!!

fourteenth, Surgery was formally ſeparated from Phyſic; the prieſts were abſolutely forbidden to practiſe it; and the Univerſity of Paris, in conſequence, refuſed to admit any ſtudent into the Faculty of Medicine who did not abjure it.

It is evident that Surgery was diſtinguiſhed from Phyſic, long before Surgeons were diſtinguiſhed from Phyſicians. After the Mandate of Pope Alexander III. it began to be cultivated with ſome degree of attention at the famous ſchool of Salernum, and perhaps at Naples and Montpellier. By one of the ſtatutes of the Emperor Frederick II. the founder of the academy at Vienna, the former ſchool obtained the power of granting degrees in medicine about the middle of the thirteenth century; and one clauſe in that ſtatute particularly relates to Surgeons*. concerning whom a better and more juſt opinion ſeems to have been there entertained, than at Paris. The Italian univerſities admitted lay ſtudents to equal privileges with the clerical; ſome of them became phyſicians of note, and the clergy left the performance of Surgical operations entirely

* " Salubri etiam conſtitutione ſancimus, ut *nullus* " *Chirurgicus* ad practicam admittatur, niſi teſtimoniales " literas afferat Magiſtrorum in Medicinali facultate le- " gentium, quod per annum ſaltem in ea parte Medicinæ " ſtuduerit, quæ Chirurgiæ inſtruit Facultatem; et præ- " ſertim anatomiam humanorum corporum in Scholis " didicerit, et ſit in ea parte medicinæ perfectus, ſine qua " nec inciſiones ſalubriter fieri poterunt, nec fracta frac- " tura curari." Bulæi Hiſt. Univ. Par. Tom. III. p. 158.

entirely to them, for the reaſon before aſſigned, as we learn from Brunus and Lanfranc, the latter of whom was by birth a Milaneſe. Several of theſe came over to France at different periods, where they practiſed with conſiderable ſucceſs and reputation. However, that they did not confine themſelves entirely to Surgery, is exceedingly evident from their writings.

How far this regulation in the ſchool, or Univerſity as we muſt now call it, of Salernum, might influence the minds of the French Surgeons to ſeek for an eſtabliſhment, I cannot ſay; but it was, in all probability, about this period that Louis IX. commonly called St. Louis, who had accuſtomed himſelf to aſſiſt in dreſſing the wounds of his ſoldiers, firſt incorporated the Surgeons of Paris. After the mandate of Pope Alexander had been repeated by Honorius III. the clerical phyſicians more frequently gave advice in the churches; eſpecially in the church of Nôtre Dame, where the Surgeons attended to receive their directions about ſome of their patients, and to dreſs the ſores of ſuch as came thither. At length St Louis, thinking the Surgeons deſerving of more reſpect, than merely to be conſidered as the ſcholars and underlings of the Phyſicians, conſtituted them into a College, or Confrairie, about the year 1268, in honour of St. Côſme and St. Damien; and in the church conſecrated

to

to thoſe ſaints they for ſeveral centuries after were obliged to attend, the firſt Monday in every month, after divine ſervice, to dreſs the wounded and lame poor, gratis*.

Thus then aroſe the two claſſes of Surgeons in France. Thoſe who had a regular, though a defective education, in the School of Phyſic, and occaſionally practiſed as Phyſicians; and thoſe who were originally employed as the ſervants of the prieſts, being in fact Barbers. Some of the latter on leaving their employers began to encroach on the former, and it appears that in the year 1301, there were twenty-ſix of this deſcription ſettled in Paris. The former claſs had conſiderably multiplied towards the time when Clement V. removed the papal See from Rome to Avignon, but as they were ſtill comparatively few in number, the Barbers were of neceſſity tolerated as inferior Practitioners. However in the year 1301, they were ſummoned before the *Procureur du Roy*, at the Chatelet of Paris, and forbidden to practiſe till they had been examined by the *Maitres Chirurgiens*†. This prohibition was of little avail. The *Maitres Chirurgiens* had no ſpecific authority. The number of ignorant pretenders was daily increaſing; till at length John Pitard, who had been Surgeon ſucceſſively to St. Louis,

* Paſquier ut ſupra, p. 862. Mem. de l'Acad. de Chir. Tom. IV. Introd. p. 2. † Paſquier, p. 874.

Louis, Philip the Brave, and Philip the Fair, obtained an edict from the latter in the year 1311, by which he was empowered to aſſemble with the Maſters in Surgery; to compel all practitioners in that art to appear before him, to be examined reſpecting their qualifications; to grant licences to ſuch as were of competent abilities, and to take them before the Provoſt of Paris to be ſworn. The Provoſt being at the ſame time authorized to puniſh all who dared to practiſe within the city and lieutenancy of Paris, without having firſt obtained this ſanctio from John Pitard, or his ſucceſſors in office. This edict was repeated with ſome ſlight alterations by King John in 1352, and again in 1355; and afterwards by Charles V. who while he was Regent had enrolled his own name among the liſt of their members*; and who finally determined in the year 1372, that the Surgery of the Barbers, for the future, ſhould be confined to dreſſing boils, bruiſes, and open wounds which were not mortal, but might become ſo without timely aſſiſtance†.

During the whole of this period France was the principal ſeminary of Engliſh learning, and the ſource of Engliſh cuſtoms. Still,

"Gallia cauſſidicos docuit facunda Britannos‡."

Our

* His ſucceſſor Louis XIII. did the ſame in 1615; the year after he was declared of age by the Regent.

† Paſquier ut ſupra—Appendix to the Recherches ſur l'Origine, &c. de la Chirurgie. ‡ Juven. Sat. XV.

One department in the Univerſity of Paris was called the Engliſh School, over which an Engliſh *Procureur* preſided, and was chiefly filled with ſtudents from this country*. With regard to Chirurgical, or indeed medical knowledge, none that was worth the name could be obtained in England. All the Phyſicians of any note came over from Italy or France; but moſt of them from Paris. And as to Surgeons, we hear ſcarcely any thing of them till the middle of the fourteenth century, after the eſtabliſhment of the French College under John Pitard. That they appeared no earlier; that when they did appear, their ſtation was low, and their functions confined, was not owing to any thing imputable to them, or to the profeſſion they followed; but to the want of an inſtitution like that in Paris, to educate them regularly; and to the rapacious avarice of the Romiſh Clergy, who were the Lawyers, the Phyſicians, the Divines, the Treaſurers, the Chancellors, and what not, ſmuggling wealth and power on every ſide.

That there were perſons here who followed Surgery as a ſeparate profeſſion, ſoon after they exiſted in France, is however exceedingly probable. William the Breton, who wrote at the beginning of the thirteenth century, has marked the diſtinction in his Philippide, when ſpeaking of the wound of

* Paſquier, p. 845.

our Richard I. before the Chateau de Limoſin in 1199, by an arrow that entered his ſhoulder*.

" Interea Regem circumſtant undique mixtim;
" Apponunt Medici fomenta, SECANTQUE CHIRURGI
" Vulnus, ut inde trahant ferrum leviore periclo."

Nevertheleſs, after a long and tedious reſearch, I have not been able to find that any Surgeon was ſtatedly appointed to attend the King's perſon, before the year 1360, when Richard de Wy, was made Surgeon to Edward III†. From that time the appointment was regular, though the perſons who held it were frequently foreigners. About this period alſo lived John of Ardern, who practiſed at Newark in Nottinghamſhire, and is the firſt mere Surgeon in England whoſe writings have come down to us. He was a man of learning for the time in which he lived; and from ſeveral paſſages in his writings, I think it highly probable he had ſtudied abroad. This was an advantage which few of his cotemporaries here poſſeſſed; although there can be little reaſon to doubt that many of them came over from France with their patrons the prieſts, to ſettle in this iſland. But theſe were employed, as has been ſaid, in ſubſervience to the clerical doctors, who took pretty good care that their ſervants ſhould not be wiſer than themſelves.

It

* Paſquier, p. 867. † MS. Sloan. 4581—133.

It was not till the reign of the fifth Henry, that the public mind in this country ſeems to have been awakened to the importance of the Surgical Profeſſion, or the neceſſity of placing ſome controul over thoſe who pretended to practiſe it. Indeed, ſo late as the third year of that monarch's reign, ſo very few of this profeſſion were to be found, that when he undertook the invaſion of France with a great fleet and army, he only took one principal Surgeon, Thomas Morſtede, and twelve aſſiſtants with him, on that expedition: He even gave ſome of his own jewels in pledge for the payment of the ſalary which was allowed them. In the following year, for his ſecond expedition, a warrant was iſſued to the ſame Thomas Morſtede and one William Bredewardyn, to preſs as many Surgeons and their Inſtrument Makers into the ſervice, as they could any where find; "Ubicunque inveniri poterunt, "tam infra Civitatem noſtram Londoniæ, quam "alibi*." In the ninth year of the ſame reign it was enacted by the Parliament, "That the Lords of "the King's Council for the time being," ſhould have power to puniſh thoſe who practiſed Surgery without being approved by Maſters of that Art; but the number of good practitioners ſtill continued ſo ſmall, that it was not poſſible to put a ſtop to the bad.

* See Henry's Hiſtory of England, vol. X. Rymer's Fædera, Tom. IX. p. 237. 252. 363.

However, during the long reign of Henry VI. in whoſe minority the Duke of Bedford acted as Regent in France, the number of Surgeons prodigiouſly increaſed. Several appeals were made to the miniſters of this prince, from the Surgeons and Barbers in France, both at Paris and Bourdeaux*, and they came over here with little reſerve. In the mean time copies of the writings of Albucaſis, Avicenna, the Greek Phyſicians, Guido de Gauliaco, Lanfranc, John of Ardern, and others, had multiplied, and were conſequently more generally read. The Profeſſion began to aſſume a more ſcientific appearance; and when Edward IV. aſcended the throne, the London Practitioners began to think of applying for a patent of incorporation, that ſhould place them on a footing with their brethren in Paris; and enable them to put a check on the crowd of ignorant and vile impoſtors, who began now to pour in from all parts, and commit the moſt daring and impudent frauds, under the cloak of practiſing Surgery†.

It can be no information to the Reader to obſerve, that before this period our forefathers permitted

* Paſquier, p. 875. MS. Sloan, 4604—61, &c.

† In this reign the office of Serjeant Surgeon was firſt inſtituted. See Rymer's Fæd. Tom. XIII. p. 374. It was probably firſt given to William Hobbys, with a ſalary of forty marks per annum. MS. Sloan, 4614—41.

mitted their beards to grow. Shaving was an operation very rarely performed, and was actually conſidered as the buſineſs of a Surgeon; being ſeldom needed except in caſe of ſome accident which made it neceſſary to remove the hair from the injured part; or of thoſe diſeaſes, in which, as has been before obſerved, conſiderable relief was expected from ſhaving the head, and making certain applications immediately to it. There is ſufficient reaſon to believe that prior to the reception of the Faculty of Medicine into the Univerſity of Paris, the Clerical Phyſicians were frequently employed for this purpoſe*. Afterward it was left in the hands of thoſe to whom other manual operations were committed, and there, it was ſhortly confined to the lower claſs of them.

In England, however, there were no Surgeons for ſeveral centuries who did not practiſeas Barbers, the King's Surgeon not excepted. In a patent iſſued for the naturalization of Michael Belwell†, who was Surgeon to Henry VI. in 1443, he is ſtiled, "*Valettus* et Sirurgicus noſter;" and the *Capitis Raſura* is expreſsly mentioned in the warrant iſſued to Wareyn and Marchall, Surgeons to the ſame monarch in 1454‡, as a part of their duty.

The

* Paſquier, p. 874. † Rymer, Tom. XI. p. 18.
‡ Ibid. p. 347.

The buſineſs of a Barber therefore in thoſe days implied no degradation whatever. Rather the contrary under certain circumſtances. The office of Barber at the Palace Gates was granted in 1447, as a mark of ſpecial favour to Robert Bolley, and Alexander Donour, ſervants to the King's Ewry, with the right of retaining very exorbitant fees for the tonſure of thoſe who were created Knights of the Bath*; this being a part of the ceremony performed at their inſtallation. The fee to be given on this occaſion by a Duke was ten pounds: A ſum equal at leaſt to twelve times as much at the preſent period.

Under theſe circumſtances, then, the Barbers of London, in the year 1461, petitioned King Edward IV. to be incorporated, AS SURGEONS, into a City Company: and AS SURGEONS, and in no other capacity, they obtained their charter from that Prince. And this incorporation, however trifling and ridiculous it may now appear, was the firſt ever eſtabliſhed in Great Britain for the regulation of any part of the medical profeſſion: BEING ERECTED FIFTY-NINE YEARS BEFORE THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

The charter itſelf appears to be framed very much after the plan of the edict iſſued by Philip the Fair

* Rymer, Tom. II. p. 182.

Fair in 1311, in favour of the Surgeons of Paris, as it was afterwards amended by King John and King Charles V. After mentioning the number of ignorant and incompetent practitioners, who were daily flocking into the City of London, through whoſe want of ſkill "*quamplurima et quaſi infinita* "*mala diverſis ligeis noſtris evenerunt, quorum quidem* "*alii ea de cauſa viam vniverſe carnis ſunt ingreſſi, alii* "*autem eadem cauſa tanquam inſanabiles et incurabiles* "*ſunt ab omnibus derelicti, &c.*" it proceeds to ordain that two principal perſons of the community incorporated, with the aſſent of twelve, or eight perſons thereof at the leaſt, might every year elect out of the community two Maſters, or Governors, being the moſt expert in the Myſtery of Surgery, who ſhould have the overſight and government of all perſons of the ſame profeſſion within the City of London, both freemen and foreigners. That no perſon ſhould be permitted to practiſe without their licence and authority, and "That they ſhould and "might admit *perſons able and ſufficiently learned in the* "*ſaid myſtery of Surgery*, and approved of by them in "form, *and no other perſons*, nor in any other man-"ner," into the Company, and to the Liberties of the City. It alſo gave power to the Governors, to examine all inſtruments and medicines uſed in Surgery; to puniſh unlicenſed practitioners by fines, forfeitures, and impriſonments; and exempted all the members from being put on juries, inqueſts, &c.

I again

I again repeat, that in no part of this charter are the Barbers conſidered under any other character than that of Surgeons; and that no reaſon is any where aſſigned for their incorporation, but that they practiſed as ſuch.

It is admitted, that while Surgeons were Barbers, Surgery, and indeed Medicine itſelf, muſt have been in a very barren condition. But if the general ſtate of things at this period be conſidered, little elſe was to be expected.

Impoveriſhed and cramped on every ſide by papal tyranny, England had ſcarcely beheld the dawn of learned or commercial glory. Diſtracted on the one hand by meretricious ſchemes of conqueſt abroad, racked and trodden down on the other, by internal diſſentions at home, the minds of men were not ſufficiently tranquil to cultivate the peaceful arts. Robbery and murder were the diſeaſes they had chiefly to dread; order and peace were bleſſings of which they knew little but the name. Few advances therefore could poſſibly be made in liberal purſuits, when no public inſtitution could be arranged to promote them. But had circumſtances been otherwiſe, the communication of knowledge was ſtill uncertain and ſlow. The art of printing, though indeed it was invented, was here unknown, and England was diſtant from the repoſitories of learning. Medicine,

it is true, was taught in the univerſities; but in ſo crude and defective a ſtate, that it rather deſerved the name of a ſuperſtition than a ſcience: and Surgery, for aught that appears to the contrary, was ſhamefully overlooked*.

Not only was the general ſtate of things unfriendly to learning, but there were many circumſtances which made Surgery then, a very different thing to what it is now. Except the larger pieces of ordnance, which were uſed in the attack of fortified places, fire arms were not yet employed in battle, either by ſea or land. The principle dependance of the Engliſh armies was on their archers. The warriors alſo were defended by armour, and the wounds they received were leſs varied and complex than thoſe which are now inflicted. Several diſeaſes which afterward appeared, and many remedies which have ſince been diſcovered (among which the Bark, and almoſt all the Chemical compoſitions are to be included) were altogether unknown: For America was not then become the theatre of European avarice, nor had lawleſs love engendered that fatal poiſon, which has ſince overſpread ſo many thouſands of her votaries with rottenneſs and miſery. To this may be added

 that

* Wood, the learned hiſtorian of Oxford, confeſſes he could ſcarcely tell where the Schools of Medicine ſtood at this period—"*Scholæ iſtæ ubinam ſteterint parum liquet.*" Hiſt. Univ. Oxon, Lib. II. p. 18.

that Anatomy, the baſis of all chirurgical knowledge, was yet uncultivated. For though little ſcruple was made of murdering an obnoxious rival, or of burning a reputed heretic alive, the diſſection of a dead body was conſidered as barbarous, and ignominious both to the perſon who performed it, and to the character of the deceaſed.

What then could be looked for in ſuch unpropitious times? Is it juſt to reproach any body of men with the character of their predeceſſors in ſo dark an age? Or might not the reproach be equally retorted on the other learned profeſſions?

But to proceed—The Barbers charter was renewed by King Henry VII. in the year 1500, with only this alteration, that four Maſters were appointed inſtead of two, who were ſtiled *Magiſtri ſive Gubernatores miſtere Barbitonſorum et Sirurgicorum.* Shortly after, in 1505, the Barbers and Surgeons of Edinburgh obtained a ſeal of Cauſe from the Magiſtrates and Council of that City*, by

* As it will ſhow ſomething of the ſtate of Surgery at that time, I will inſert the following extract from the petition preſented to the Council on this occaſion—
" And alſe that every man that is to be made freeman
" and Maſter amongſt us, be examined and proved in
" the poyntes following. That is to ſay, That he knaw
" anatomia, nature and *complexions* of every member
" of humans body; and likewayes, that he knaw all the
" vaines of the ſamen, that he may make phlibothmia
" *in due tyme.* And alſe *that he knaw in quhilk mem-*
" *bir the ſigne has dominatione for the tyme:* for every
" man

by which they were incorporated, and which was afterwards ratified by a charter from King James IV. dated October 13, 1506.

The charter of Henry VII. was confirmed by Henry VIII. in 1512, the third year of his reign, without undergoing any alteration whatever. The delivery of this latter was delineated by the pencil of Holbein, who has repreſented eighteen principal members of the Company attending the monarch on this occaſion.

In the ſame year an Act of Parliament was paſſed, enacting that no perſon ſhould be allowed to practiſe Phyſic or Surgery within London, or ſeven miles thereof, until he had been examined and approved by the Biſhop of London, and the Dean of St. Paul's, with four Phyſicians for Phyſic, and for Surgery, with four perſons expert in that faculty: or beyond theſe limits, by the Biſhop of

 the

" man aught to knaw the nature and ſubſtance of every " thing that he works in, or elſe he is negligent. And " that we may have *ance in the year*, a condemned man, " after he be dead, to make anatomia of, quhairthrow " wee may have experience ilk ane to inſtruck others, " and we ſhall doe ſufferage for the ſaule. And that na " barbour, maſter, nor ſervant within this burgh, haunt, " uſe, nor exerce this craft of ſurregiarie without he " be expert, and knaw perfittlie the things above " writin.——Item, That na maſter of the ſaid craft ſhall " take ane apprentice or ſervant man in tyme coming till " uſe the ſurregiane craft, *without he can baith read and* ", *wryte*."

the dioceſe or his Vicar General, either of them calling to him ſuch expert perſons in the ſaid faculty, as their diſcretion ſhould think convenient. The reaſon for including Surgeons in this act, was probably not merely the limited juriſdiction of the Barbers Company, but becauſe Surgery was now become a more reſpectable profeſſion, and was thought to require the ſuperviſal of abler men.

The prudent reign of Henry VII. had produced a conſiderable alteration in the ſtate of England, by increaſing the population and independence of the towns; and of courſe the number of artiſans in each. In this reign alſo the Venereal diſeaſe firſt made its appearance, and produced the moſt dreadful ſymptoms. The neceſſity for Surgeons therefore increaſed, and a few aroſe who confined themſelves entirely to that profeſſion, having no connection whatever with the Barbers. It is ſaid however that when the act of 3 Henry VIII. was paſſed, there were but ten of this deſcription in the City of London*; and it is certain there were not more than twelve two years afterwards; for by 5 Hen. VIII. c. vi. it is enacted, that the Surgeons, ſo long as there ſhall be no more than twelve of them within the city of London, ſhall be exempted from bearing of arms, and being put on watches and

* Vid. Preſent State of Chirurgery, in a letter to Mr. Serjeant Bernard, by T. D.—Lond. 1703.

and inqueſts. By the ſame act, the like exemptions were granted to the Barber-Surgeons, in a diſtinct clauſe.

Meanwhile the cuſtom of ſhaving the beard came into general uſe. The Barbers of courſe multiplied, and became a more promiſcuous claſs of men, many of whom could neither write nor read. Surgery on the other hand, was increaſing in credit, and was publicly taught in ſeveral parts of Italy and France with ability and ſucceſs. The art of printing, which was now well known, had been the means of multiplying copies of the moſt reputed writings, of diffuſing the obſervations they contained, and facilitating the attainment of knowledge. The uſe of ſmall fire arms, which began about this period to be employed in battle; opened a new field for Practical Surgery, and greatly increaſed the number of regular Surgeons toward the latter end of this reign. An opportunity ſeems therefore to have been afforded of placing this branch of Medicine on a juſt and reſpectable footing; but, unluckily, its true character was not yet fully underſtood, either by its profeſſors, or the public.

A moſt abſurd and ridiculous act was therefore paſſed*, which inſtead of keeping the Surgeons (who had formed themſelves into a ſociety) ſeparate and

* 32 Hen. VIII, c. xlii.

and diſtinct from the Barbers, united the companies, though it ſeparated their profeſſions. It firſt of all ſets forth, that it was neceſſary for theſe companies to be united, and made one body incorporate, "*to the end* THAT BY THEIR UNION AND OFTEN "ASSEMBLY TOGETHER *the good and due order, exer-* "*ciſe, and knowledge of the ſaid Science or Faculty of* "*Surgery*, SHOULD BE, AS WELL IN SPECULATION "AS IN PRACTICE, *more perfect than it hath been ;*" and then proceeds in the third clauſe to enact, "*that* NO BARBER SHALL OCCUPY ANY THING "BELONGING TO SURGERY, *drawing of teeth only* "*excepted :*" So that thoſe who *did* practiſe Surgery, were often to meet and aſſemble with thoſe who *did not*, TO BE IMPROVED BOTH IN SPECULATION AND PRACTICE.

This act however allowed the company thus incorporated to take yearly four bodies of perſons put to death for felony, for the purpoſe of diſſection. It continued the appointment of four Governors, two of whom were to be Surgeons, and two Barbers, and extended their juriſdiction to one mile round London.

The Surgeons were thus ſettled with an incumbrance which laſted them for more than two hundred years, and kept them in a ſtate of inferiority, as impolitic, as it was ridiculous.

Phyſic

Phyſic was more fortunate—The juſtly celebrated Linacre had ſupplied in Italy, thoſe defects in medical education which were ſo flagrant in our own Univerſities; and being, on his return, appointed Phyſician to Henry VII. and retaining alſo the confidence of Henry VIII. was highly inſtrumental in obtaining the Charter of September 23, 1518, by which the College of Phyſicicans was eſtabliſhed, and which was confirmed by act of Parliament in 1522. From this period medicine began to emerge from empiriciſm and neglect, and to aſſume its proper character. Its profeſſors obtained a ſuitable rank, and gained a juſt and honourable diſtinction by paſſing through a fit teſt of their talents and learning, and thus being aſſociated with a body of men, who have long maintained an ample claim to the public reſpect and confidence.

Liberal endowments were made to ſupport this new inſtitution; and, through the exertions of Linacre, arrangements were adopted in the Univerſities of Oxford and Cambridge for a more extenſive and adequate plan of medical education. Theſe arrangements ſucceeded ſo well, that in the year 1674, King Charles II. thought it right to ſend an order to the College, deſiring them to admit no perſon as a fellow, who had not graduated in one of thoſe Univerſities: a meaſure, which, at an earlier period, would have been manifeſtly improper*.

Had

* MS. Sloan. 3299—44.

Had Surgery been equally fortunate, it might have made equal progreſs: But many circumſtances concurred to keep it back, Not only the means of advancing it were ill underſtood*, but its true nature was miſconceived; and a narrow, illiberal ſpirit of animoſity and jealouſy, aroſe between the Phyſicians and Surgeons, which hurt both themſelves, and the Science they profeſſed.

However ſome exertions were made. The reign of Elizabeth, which commenced in 1558, was ſplendid, active, and favourable to learning in general. Conſiderable additions had then been made to the ſtock of anatomical knowledge by Veſalius, Fallopius, and others. The art of engraving enabled them to diſſeminate their diſcoveries; and we have ſeveral Chirurgical treatiſes, publiſhed in London between the years 1570 and 1590, which at leaſt deſerve the praiſe of diligent compilation. Rude and uncouth as the writings of Gale and Baneſter now appear, yet when compared with the fragments which are left by writers half a century earlier†, they ſhow an evident advancement in the ſcience, and give no mean idea of the talents, or induſtry of their authors.

The

* In the year 1566, a bye-law was made by the united Company, "that no private anatomy ſhould be diſſected out of the hall, under the penalty of ten pounds."

† Moſt of theſe are copies of John of Ardern, with a few extracts from foreign writers, and ſome receipts of their own noſtrums.

The French Surgery, which had for ſome time paſt lain neglected, now revived under the juſtly celebrated Ambroſe Paré. This great man was originally one of the Barber-Surgeons in Paris*, but was raiſed by his ſuperior talents and diligence, to the moſt diſtinguiſhed eminence of any Surgeon at that time in Europe. His writings are ſtill valued. To ſhow the eſtimation in which he was held, it will be ſufficient to obſerve, that when the bloody maſſacre of the French Proteſtants (of whom he was one) commonly called the Bartholomew Maſſacre, was on the point of being perpetrated, the king (Charles IX.) ſent for him over night into his Wardrobe, and made him ſtay there in ſafety, without even preſſing him to change his religion, till the ſavage emiſſaries of that cowardly plot had executed their orders†.

Scotland alſo had the honour of producing a Surgeon of no mean account in the perſon of Peter Lowe, who was appointed by James VI. (our James I.) to examine and licenſe all Surgeons practiſing in the weſtern parts of that country. This monarch confirmed, in the year 1623, the charters, &c. which had been hitherto iſſued in favour of the Barbers and Surgeons of Edinburgh.

* Paſquier, p 877.

† Mem. de Brantome, Tom. IV. p. 8, 9.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, profecutions were frequently commenced by the College of Phyficians againft members of the Surgeons Company for practifing phyfic; which they were confidered as doing, whenever they prefcribed internal medicines, even in Chirurgical cafes. According to the doctrine then maintained, if a man had but a boil on his nofe, he muft have a Surgeon to apply a plaifter, a Phyfician to order him a purge, and an Apothecary to put it up—greatly to the relief of his pocket, and the good order of the profeffion. However, it muft be mentioned that the College were authorifed by law to practife Surgery; and a Surgical Lecture had been founded there by Lord Lumley and Dr. Caldwall about the year 1582, which had been of great public utility*; while Surgery was very imperfectly taught by the members of the Company at that time, either as individuals or as a body. The Surgeons not only then, but for a long time after, were very inattentive to that true foundation of good Surgical Practice, a knowledge of the theory of medicine: And this neglect led them to admit feveral, perhaps many, into their number, who were extremely ignorant in this refpect, and who were merely acquainted with the general anatomy of

* It was at this lecture Harvey firft made public his difcovery of the circulation. Vid. Goodall's Epiftle Dedicatory. Alfo the Life of Harvey prefixed to the College edition of his works.

of the body, and the mechanical performance of ſuch operations as were then in uſe.

Of late, and ſince the diſtinction between Surgeons and Phyſicians has been taken, as it certainly ought to be, rather from the diſeaſes they treat, than from the part each of them take in the treatment, this oppoſition has been gradually wearing away, and is not likely to be revived: But at that time it grew to a very ſerious height. The College ſent a letter to the Surgeons Company, on the 12th of November, 1595*, avowing their intention to proceed againſt all of them who ſhould offend in this matter. They accordingly commenced a proceſs ſhortly after againſt one Jenkins, which was left to the deciſion of Sir John Popham, then Lord Chief Juſtice, who determined it April 8, 1602, in favour of the College; declaring it as his opinion, "*that no Sur-*
"*geon, as a Surgeon, might practiſe Phyſic; no, not*
"*for any diſeaſe, though it were the great pox*—"† And further, "That the Lord Chief Juſtice could not
"bail, or deliver the College priſoner, but was
"obliged by law to deliver him up to the College
"Cenſure." For this deciſion his Lordſhip received a very flattering letter of thanks from the College.

* Goodall, p. 340.

† Alſton, p. 115. Goodall, p. 344.

It was now high time for the Surgeons Company to look about them; for whatever Jenkins might be, and it is very clear what he was, this deciſion went againſt the members of the Company at large, and degraded them into the ſervility of the moſt dependent hirelings. But King James ſhortly after coming to the throne of England, they applied for a new Charter, and obtained it on the 30th of January, 1604.

This entruſted the examination of all who ſhould practiſe Surgery within three miles of London to the Maſter and two of the aſſiſtants, being Surgeons, and admitted all who where approved by them, "*ad exercicium, uſum, et practicam miſteræ ſive* "*artis prædictæ, omnibus neceſſariis et ſalubribus viis* "*et modis convenientibus,* TAM INTERNIS QUAM EX- "TERNIS MEDICINIS, *artem ſive miſteriam Chirur-* "*gicam concernentibus, ſecundum experienciam, cogni-* "*cionem et ſcienciam eorundem,*" &c.

By this Charter the Court of Aſſiſtants was firſt appointed. They were to be twenty-ſix in number, and to hold their office for life, unleſs ſome reaſonable ground ſhould occur for their removal. It was not however determined that any fixed number of the Court of Aſſiſtants ſhould be Surgeons, and therefore the Maſters were directed, every year, before the expiration of their office, to chooſe twelve perſons out of the Aſſiſtants and commonalty,

monalty, ſix of whom were to be Surgeons, and ſix Barbers; which twelve were to chooſe the four new maſters for the enſuing year, out of the Court of Aſſiſtants. A clauſe was alſo inſerted, prohibiting any perſon who was not a Surgeon and a member of the Company, from intermeddling with the diſſection or embalming of any dead body within the juriſdiction now allowed.

From this time the College of Phyſicians became leſs troubleſome; though under the pretext that the charter had not been confirmed by Parliament, they fined ſome members of the company for bad practice. And it is ſufficiently evident that the practice of thoſe whom they did fine was bad enough.

The charter was once more renewed by King Charles I. in the year 1629, who extended the juriſdiction to ſeven miles round London, and made the following alterations in the conſtitution of the company.

Ten Examiners elected by and out of the Court of Aſſiſtants were to continue in that office for life, unleſs ſome reaſonable cauſe could be aſſigned for their removal—The Examiners were to be ſtill conſidered as a part of the Court of Aſſiſtants notwithſtanding their election to that office—The Court of Aſſiſtants were to elect perſons out of their

their own number (being Surgeons) to ſupply vacancies in the Court of Examiners, and perſons out of the company at large to ſupply vacancies in their own.

All candidates for admiſſion into the Company were to be examined in the preſence of two of the Maſters, and four Examiners; and all Navy Surgeons, their Mates, their inſtruments and medicine cheſts, were to be examined by the maſters.

It was enjoined that all members of the Company, who might happen to be called to a perſon wounded, ſo as to be in danger of loſing his life or a limb, ſhould conſult one or both of the two maſters, for the time being, who were Surgeons, reſpecting the caſe, within twenty hours, on pain of forfeiting forty ſhillings.

Every apppentice was to be preſented at a Court held in the common hall before one maſter at leaſt; to be bound for no ſhorter a term than ſeven years; not to be decrepid or deformed, or have any corrupt or peſtilential diſeaſe, but to be ſound in body and limbs. If he was apprenticed to a Surgeon he was to underſtand and read the Latin language; and all this under a penalty of twenty pounds.

A Lecture

A Lecture in Surgery was alſo *permitted* to be read once a week, or otherwiſe, at the diſcretion of the maſter and aſſiſtants.

Reſpecting every perſon admitted to practiſe Surgery it is ſaid in the charter, "*plenam poteſtatem et authoritatem de cetero in perpetuum habeat et habebit, facere, præparare, componere, applicare,* ADMINISTRARE, *et uti,* OMNIBUS ET SINGULIS *emplaſtris, unguentis,* COMPOSICIONIBUS, PHARMASIS, ET ALIIS MEDICAMENTIS, *ad artem Chirurgicam ſpectantibus, quæ per tales homines aut eorum aliquos tam expertos approbatos et admiſſos, ante hæc tempora habitis, uſis, ſeu frequentatis, aut que per eos ſive ſucceſſores ſuos, aut eorum aliquem in poſterum exiſtimabuntur idonea, ſana, et convenientia pro meliori et cerciori recuperacione ſanitatis paciencium ſuorum in caſibus Chirurgiæ; videlicet, in curacione Vulnerum, Ulcerum, Fracturarum, Diſlocacionum, Tumorum præter et contra naturam, et aliarum externarum infirmitatum prout ſibi melius fore videbitur expedire.*"

A few years before this charter was given, the immortal Harvey had publiſhed his diſcovery of the Circulation, and thus began that important revolution which has ſince taken place both in the Theory and Practice of Medicine: But as this change was only to be brought about by a careful induction and arrangement of many particulars, and a ſeries of obſervations entirely new, it was not very

very quick in its advances. Only a ſmall progreſs was therefore made in Chirurgical knowledge for the following fifty years; when Mr. Richard Wiſeman, Serjeant Surgeon to King Charles II. publiſhed his eight treatiſes, and firſt gave luſtre to Surgery in England.

By this time a number of events had taken place, which greatly favoured the ſucceſs of his exertions. Europe had aſſumed a new character: Science was riſing with reſiſtleſs ſplendor to diſſipate the clouds which had ſo long obſcured her; and medicine, before a rude and almoſt pathleſs deſert, began to wear the appearance of cultivation, and to invite, nay to command, attention.

The writings of Lord Bacon had not only been the means of advancing ſcience in general, by exploding the hopothetical ſyſtems received in his time, but had been peculiarly beneficial to medicine. With great accuracy and diſcernment he pointed out its defects, and ſhowed the neceſſity of obſerving his own rules in all future attempts to improve it. His obſervations on this ſubject* deſerve the repeated peruſal of every ſtudent.

Taught by the doctrine of ſo great a maſter, Sydenham applied himſelf to the obſervation of morbid

* De Augment. Scient. Lib. IV. c. 2.

morbid phænomena, which he delineated with uncommon exactneſs, and careful attention to ſurrounding circumſtances. Others followed the ſame example, and much light was thrown on the nature and cure of internal diſeaſes.

Anatomy alſo was now in a high ſtate of cultivation, eſpecially on ſeveral parts of the continent. The doctrine of the circulation was univerſally received; and the art of injecting the blood-veſſels with coloured fluids, invented by De Graaf, and improved by Swammerdam and Ruyſch, enabled Anatomiſts not only better to diſſect the different parts of the body, but alſo to demonſtrate their ſtructure with great minuteneſs, and to ſubject them to the microſcope with eminent advantage. Chemiſtry had furniſhed many active and ſucceſsful remedies, both for external and internal uſe; and was faſt emerging from the myſtery and jargon in which it had been ſo induſtriouſly obſcured. Literary Societies were inſtituted in various parts of Europe; the genius of Newton was beginning to unfold; and the mechanical arts had made a rapid progreſs.

But what more immediately contributed to the improvement of Surgery about this period, was an alteration which was made by Louis XIV. in the principal eſtabliſhment for teaching it in France; whoſe cuſtoms, both good and bad, have always had

a remarkable influence over this country. A courſe of Chirurgical Lectures had been inſtituted in the *Jardin Royal* at Paris in the year 1635, but it was ordained that the Lecturer ſhould always be a Phyſician, and a member of the Faculty of Medicine in that Univerſity. This abſurd regulation continued till the year 1671, when his Majeſty very judiciouſly determined, that in future, the Lectures on Surgery and Anatomy ſhould be read by a Surgeon: and ſhortly after gave orders that bodies for diſſection and the neceſſary demonſtrations, ſhould be freely ſupplied. Dionis was firſt appointed to this office, and the ſuperior ability with which he filled it, inconteſtably proved the propriety of the alteration*.

The abſurdity of having Surgery taught by one ſet of men, while it is wholly practiſed by another, ſeems almoſt too groſs to need pointing out. Such a plan was ſcarcely ever thought of in any other profeſſion; and it is, at firſt view, rather ſurpriſing it ſhould ever have been adopted in this.

The fact is, that when Cardinal Etouteville, in the year 1452, aboliſhed the law which obliged the Phyſicians to celibacy, many of them, thinking there was more comfort to be found in a wife without a benefice, than could be expected in a benefice

* Hiſt. de l'Acad. R. de Chirurgie, p. 27, et ſeq.

benefice without a wife, abandoned the prieſthood, and were then permitted, of courſe, to viſit their patients themſelves at their own houſes. They now became jealous of the influence of the Surgeons, to whom they were before ſo much indebted; and tried all the arts and manœuvres that monkiſh craft could deviſe, to oppreſs and degrade them*. Violent diſputes therefore frequently aroſe between them, in which the Phyſicians, being members of the Univerſity, and therefore under clerical protection, generally prevailed. The Surgeons, very unwiſely, inſtead of endeavouring to act wholly independent, of them and the Univerſity too, were always trying to puſh themſelves into the latter, under the denomination of a Fifth Faculty; and to make friends for this purpoſe, of the very men who were deſpiſing and perſecuting them. They appealed to their honour, their good ſenſe, and ſo on; but as they could not appeal to their intereſt, they generally fruſtrated their own intentions; and only gained the honour of being acknowledged as the ſcholars and pupils of the Univerſity, and being admitted to receive apoſtolical benediction from the ſame lips as their High Mightineſſes the Doctors. But they were not allowed to graduate there for a very con-

 ſiderable

* In order to this they patroniſed the Barbers ſo far as to read the Lectures on Anatomy, and explain the Surgical Writers to them in the vernacular language; contrary to the univerſal practice of every School of Phyſic at that time in Europe. At another they tried to make the Bagnio-keepers ſupplant the Surgeons.

ſiderable time after the firſt reaſon for prohibiting them was, in fact, done away. The Phyſicians therefore having the nominal ſuperiority of rank, were always pretending to be the only good and fit teachers of Surgery, and treated the Surgeons as their mere creatures and dependents*.

It was impoſſible that Surgery could proſper much while this was the caſe. It was therefore highly proper ſome alteration ſhould be made†. At length it was made, as has juſt been deſcribed; and

* So proud were the Surgeons of being conſidered even the Scholars of the Univerſity, that when charged by the Regent with having denied their relation to it, Philip Roger their repreſentative ſaid, ſo far from having done ſo, "*ſi aviezmes ſongé le dire, nous nous irions cou-* " *cher pour le déſonger.*" Bulæi Hiſt. Univ. Par. tom. VI. p. 32.

† " On devoit prévoir les malheurs de la diviſion de la Theorie d'avec l'Art d'opérer. Fallope, et Marc Auréle Severin, en Italie, s'étoient déja plaints amérement de l'extinction de la *race Hippocratique;* c'eſt ainſi qu'ils appelloient les grands Maitres de notre art, á qui la ſciénce de l'économie animale et des deſordres quì peuvent en troubler les fonctions, donnoit des principes ſur l'adminiſtration des differens moyens de remédier á ces dérangemens. Ils ſçavoient appliquer avec dextérité les ſecours de la main dans les cas où ils les jugeoient convenables: *mais ils n'empruntoient pas les lumieres d'autrui pour diſcerner cette néceſſité;* ils ſe dirigeoient par celles qui ſont le fruit de l'étude et de l'experience réunies. QUELLE HABILETE POURROIENT AVOIR DANS LA PRATIQUE D'UN ART, CEUX QUI FONT PROFESSION DE NE LE POINT EXERCER?"
Hiſt. de l'Acad. R. de Chirurgie, p. 31, 32.

and from that period Surgery rapidly improved, and enabled its profeſſors to add luſtre to their country.

The wars which deluged the neighbouring continent with blood, during the ambitious reign of Louis XIV. made Surgery of greater importance to the public than ever. The increaſe of anatomical knowledge rendered its operations more ſure, more exact, and more ſucceſsful. It roſe, as it deſerved, in general eſteem; and as Paris was conſidered the principal ſource of thoſe improvements which were every where viſible, and every where beneficial, the demonſtrations in the *Jardin Royal* were crouded with pupils from all parts of Europe; and in the year 1724, five public profeſſors of the Theory and Practice of Surgery were appointed.

In no countries were the improvements alluded to (which it would require an ample volume to detail) more noticed and encouraged, than in Germany and Holland, where diſtinct profeſſorſhips were appointed in the Univerſities, to teach this moſt ancient and uſeful branch of the healing art. The ardour and ſucceſs with which anatomy was cultivated in the Dutch Provinces, together with the diſtinguiſhed eminence of their engravers, enabled *them* in particular to avail themſelves of the diſcoveries which were made, and to diffuſe much uſeful

uſeful and important information. About this period alſo, the celebrated Heiſter, who was Profeſſor of Surgery, firſt in the Univerſity of Altorf, and afterwards in that of Helmſtadt, rendered an important ſervice to his brethren and to mankind, by publiſhing his ſyſtem of Surgery. In compiling this able work, he carefully collected and arranged the obſervations of others, in his own and former times; and added to them whatever an excellent underſtanding, and a large field of experience, had ſuggeſted to himſelf.

The part which England had borne in the troubles of the continent, and the diſturbed ſtate of her own internal affairs, produced too much occaſion for the more frequent employment of Surgeons in this country: Their number therefore was increaſed, and a few attained to conſiderable eminence, among whom Mr. Cheſelden deſerves principally to be mentioned. To him we are indebted for a conſiderable improvement in ſeveral capital operations; and for inſtructing our inſtrument makers in an art, which has now attained to great perfection; the moſt important inſtruments being imported from France before his time.

Still however many circumſtances exiſted which rendered it almoſt impoſſible for the Surgeons in England to keep pace with their brethren in France. There were at that time but two hoſpitals in London

don* for the ſick and lame; and the governors of theſe entirely refuſed to allow the education of pupils in one, and would admit but nine at a time in the other. The rulers of the united company, a majority of them being Barbers, ſtrenuouſly maintained the bye-law† which ſubjected every member who diſſected a body out of the hall, without their permiſſion, to a penalty of ten pounds; and rigourouſly proſecuted all who diſobeyed it. The members were amenable to the power of the Spiritual Court; they were liable to many heavy charges, often amounting to more than one hundred pounds before they had ſerved all the offices of the company‡; the privileges they enjoyed depending principally on charters which had not yet been ratified by Parliament, were often called in queſtion, and found inſufficient to ſcreen them from ſeveral troubleſome and expenſive offices in Weſtminſter hall§; and, added to all this, the Phyſicians and Surgeons were perpetually quarrelling, about the

* St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas's——Guy's was founded in the year 1722——St. George's about 1733——The London Hoſpital in 1740——The Middleſex in 1755—and the Weſtminſter Infirmary in 1719.

† Vid. page 32.

‡ Almoſt all of theſe were aboliſhed when the companies ſeparated.

§ Gataker's Le Dran. p. 470.—Arnaud, Mem. de la Chirurgie, p. 821.

the right of the latter to adminiſter internal remedies to their patients*.

None

* A vaſt number of pamphlets were publiſhed in this diſpute, which had found its way into Scotland, and occaſioned the following clauſes to be inſerted in the Charter granted by William and Mary to the Surgeons there, July 17, 1695.

" Atque ſimiliter, quum in memoriam revocamus in literis illis patentibus, a ſereniſſimo Rege Carolo Secundo, beatiſſimæ memoriæ, conceſſis, quibus Medici Edinburgenſes in Collegium eriguntur, Chirurgorum et Chirurgorum-Pharmacopæorum Edinburgenſium privilegia ſarta et tecta ſeu integra, et indemnia Chirurgis ibidem reſervantur et præſtantur; atque cautum eſt, et declaratum, quod non obſtantibus prædictis literis patentibus, prædictos Chirurgos et Chirurgos-Pharmacopæos ſolos et omnino poteſtatem Edinburgi habere *curandi omnium vulnerum genera, colliſiones oſſium, fracturas et diſlocationes, contuſiones, tumores, ulcera et ſimilia*, ET OMNIA ACCIDENTIA AB ILLIS ORTA, *quæ ſolius Chirurgiæ operationum ſunt ſubjecta: at morbos omnes internæ originis* medicis ſolis committendi ſunt (exceptis ut ſupra excipitur.)

" Atque ſi quæ inter Medicos et Chirurgos-Pharmacopæos lis aut controverſia de hiſce rebus oriatur; ratum eſſe et judicatum volumus, prædictum Medicorum Collegium nullum haberi poteſtatem erogandi mulctarum in Chirurgos aut Chirurgos-Pharmacopæos qui cives Edinburgenſes ſunt, ſine conſenſu præfecti vel prætoris alicujus ejus urbis; et in caſu abſentiæ vel detrectationis eorum, ad ſtatos noſtri Concilii Dominos appellationem utriuſque fieri volumus.

" Noſque intelligentes prædictas literas patentes ita cauté conceptas, in ſenſu et intentione ad effectum infra mentionatum, itaque nos volumus et declaramus, ſcientiam illarum literarum patentium, in favorem quorundam Medicorum

None of theſe obſtacles now exiſted in France, except the laſt; and that was daily diminiſhing. The abilities of Petit, Duverney, Garengeot, Felix, Mery, Le Dran, and others, made their way through all oppoſition, and ſupported the profeſſion in its true character: and the intereſt of La Peyronie, Mareſchal, and La Martiniere, procured it a liberal patronage from the throne, which at length iſſued in the eſtabliſhment of the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, by Louis XV. in 1731.

The labours of this famous Society need no encomium: They are before the public in five quarto volumes, replete with proofs of the ability of their authors.

Nevertheleſs much was left to be done; and it may be queſtioned whether the labours of Mr. Pott

 alone

Medicorum Edinburgenſium, conceptarum, curam *morborum omnium ab origine internorum*, AD SOLOS MEDICOS *privatim pertinere;* at vero, *morbos omnes et languores ab externa cauſa provenientes*, ET EORUM ACCIDENTIA, SIVE MEDICAMENTIS INTERNE MINISTRATIS SIVE EXTERNE APPLICATIS CURENTUR, *proprium eſſe et verum Chyrurgorum operationum ſubjecta*, et ad Chyrurgos, et Chyrurgos-Pharmacopæos, *tanquam negotii ſui et artis* PARTES NECESSARIAS ET NATURALES *proprié pertinere*. Et volumus et definimus hos veros, rectos et fixos, inter utramque artem futuros perpetuo limites; et ut omnes judices noſtri atque ſubditi, hæc in commodum Chyrurgorum et Chyrurgorum-Pharmacopæorum CUM OMNI FAVORE, TANQUAM ADMITTI POTEST interpretentur."

alone did not afterwards produce a more real, and a more perfect change in the practice of Surgery here, than the united efforts of the French academicians.

Be this as it may—The institution of this Academy was accompanied with several circumstances, which very much favoured the execution of its original design. An edict was issued in the year 1743, dissolving the connection which had subsisted ever since 1655*, between the Surgeons of St. Côsme and the Barber Surgeons, and decreeing that the employment of the latter should entirely cease with the lives of those who then actually professed it. It was further ordained that no person should be admitted by the College of St. Côsme (which still retained the power of examining and licensing practitioners) who had not previously graduated as Master of Arts.

I cannot quit this part of my subject, without noticing the wisdom of the French Court, in keeping the civil capacity of the College of St. Côsme distinct from the literary capacity of the Academy; although, when the definitive regulations of the latter were settled, all the members of the one were considered as nominal members of the other†.

I mention

* They were incorporated together at that period by Louis XIV.

† Only seventy had any share in the management of the institution.

I mention this the rather, becauſe it has been conſidered as a capital defect in the bill which has given occaſion to this pamphlet, that there was no proviſion contained in it, obliging the members of the company to aſſemble as a literary body, for the communication of their reſpective obſervations: For, not to mention that there are already ſeveral Societies of Phyſicians and Surgeons formed for this expreſs purpoſe, the end to be anſwered by ſuch an aſſociation muſt be entirely diſtinct from that, on account of which the company is incorporated. The Surgeons Company is primarily and eſſentially a civil inſtitution; appointed to protect the public from ignorant and unqualified practitioners; and therefore empowered to examine all who profeſs to be Surgeons, and to admit thoſe who are found of competent abilities to the enjoyment of certain privileges, allowed them by the State, The other would be a private ſociety, poſſeſſing no civil capacity, conſtructed on different principles, and requiring regulations of a very different kind. It might be eligible, for aught I know, that the company ſhould contain both theſe inſtitutions within itſelf; but as they would by neceſſity of nature, be really different, they ought to be kept formally diſtinct*.

* It would be a curious, and very uſeful undertaking, to inveſtigate the principles of organization in ſmall ſocieties: A ſubject certainly worthy of enquiry; but hitherto very little underſtood, or even conſidered.

But to return from this digreſſion.—Surgery was now rapidly improving in England. Anatomy was taught in ſeveral parts of the City of London by profeſſors of conſiderable ability. Several new hoſpitals had been erected, and in all of them the education of pupils was admitted. The good effects of theſe charitable inſtitutions were every where viſible, by the ſtriking recoveries of patients who were ſent up to them from all parts of the country, in caſes formerly conſidered as almoſt certainly fatal. The public mind was therefore diſpoſed to think favourably of an art, by the perfection of which every one might look for relief, under a large and afflicting portion of the ſufferings common to humanity.

Theſe circumſtances, together with the rank the French Surgeons had obtained, could not but increaſe the deſire of thoſe in London to break off their connection with the Barbers, which was now become more irkſome and degrading than ever. The right to freedom of the city by birth* had introduced men of all employments into the company---not only Barbers, but Bagnio-keepers, Drapers, Carpenters---

" Black Spirits and White,
" Blue Spirits and Grey."

Added

* This right belonged to the children of the Barbers: But the Surgeons were admitted by examination *only*.

Added to all this, the number of Surgeons in the livery was but one hundred and fourteen, while that of the Barbers was three times as great.

The ſeparation was therefore determined on. An application was made to Parliament in the eighteenth year of his late Majeſty King George II. (A.D. 1745) and an act was paſſed, making them two diſtinct corporations, and confirming to the Surgeons all the privileges allowed in the Royal Charters given to the united company, ſo far as they related to Surgery only.

The Hall, and all the property, except the amount of two legacies for Anatomical Lectures, which will hereafter be noticed, were left in poſſeſſion of the Barbers, who would conſent to the ſeparation on no other terms. They even kept the anatomical preparations, and ſome excellent paintings of the muſcles, as proofs of the dignity of their origin. The former, I underſtand, are now diſpoſed of, or deſtroyed; and the theatre which contained them has been pulled down: The latter ſtill remain.

The government of the Surgeons Company, and the management of all their affairs, were veſted in the Court of Aſſiſtants, who were to be twenty-one in number, ten of whom were to be Examiners, and each to hold their reſpective offices for life.

They

They were to elect members out of the company at large to fill up vacancies in their own number and perſons from among themſelves to fill vacancies in the Court of Examiners. They were alſo to chooſe annually one principal Maſter or Governor, and two other Governors or Wardens; and nine members of the Court of Aſſiſtants, with two of the Governors, formed a quorum for the tranſaction of buſineſs.

One of the firſt things to which the Court of Aſſiſtants applied themſelves after the paſſing of this act, was the formation of new bye-laws; in doing which they paid an eſpecial regard to the relief of the younger members, by aboliſhing many expenſive offices, and leſſening the admiſſion fees: So that the freedom of the company, with all its privileges, was ſhortly to be obtained with leſs than one quarter of the expence it had formerly coſt. No reſtraint was laid on any of the members to prohibit them from taking thoſe ſteps by which they could either gain or communicate information; and a general ſpirit of exertion preſently diffuſed itſelf, which ſoon enabled the Surgeons of London to rival their brethren on the continent*.

Thoſe who were appointed to attend the different hoſpitals which had been eſtabliſhed, not only attained from their ſituation a conſiderable degree of publicity, which is always a ſpur to active minds, but

* Gataker, ut ſupra.

but were put in poſſeſſion of an extenſive field of obſervation and experience. This enabled them to bring received opinions to the teſt on a large ſcale; to correct many errors which had long prevailed, and eſpecially to improve the method of operating, which had hitherto been very unſcientific, and encumbered with aukward and unneceſſary inſtruments. Among the names of thoſe to whom England is moſt indebted for a ſucceſsful application of their talents to this important ſervice, that of Mr. Samuel Sharp, a pupil of Mr. Cheſelden, and formerly Surgeon to Guy's Hoſpital, deſerves a diſtinguiſhed place. To very acute talents for obſervation, he joined the art of appreciating with accuracy and fairneſs the opinions of others; and was the firſt Engliſhman who publiſhed a complete and mothodical account of the operations of Surgery, in its improved ſtate.

Such is the pain, and often the danger, attending ſome of theſe operations, that ability and preſence of mind to perform them well, is an acquiſition of great value; and was peculiarly ſo at that time, when they were only beginning to be conducted on the true principles of ſcience, and to be directed by a knowledge of the ſtructure and œconomy of the human frame. But this acquiſition important and ſplendid as it may be, is far from being all that is neceſſary for a Surgeon:—To inveſtigate the nature of thoſe diſeaſes in which operations are needful, and to diſtinguiſh

them

them from thoſe which are conquerable by more gentle means; to aſcertain the moment when the knife ſhould be employed, and to determine under what circumſtances, and with what medical treatment it may be uſed to the greateſt advantage; to know preciſely in what the operation itſelf ſhould conſiſt, what ſhould be attempted before it, and what ought to follow after; this is the Surgeon's longeſt, and his hardeſt taſk.

To animate his brethren in this important duty, and to ſet an example of it worthy their imitation, was the great and ſucceſsful endeavoar of the late Mr. Pott. Born with a mind penetrating, ſtrong, and comprehenſive, conceiving in very early life a predominant attachment to his profeſſion, ſparing no pains to become intimately acquainted with the principles on which it is built, and to avail himſelf of the obſervations of thoſe who had ſtudied it before him, he was enabled to mark with preciſion what paſſed under his own eye, and to reaſon with accuracy from cauſe to effect: Hence his judgment became prompt, becauſe it was informed; and firm, becauſe it was clear.

Mr. Pott therefore was eminently fitted to improve and to adorn the Science of Surgery. Not by the haſty ſpirit of a daring and conceited innovator; but by an habit of patient attention to the operations of nature, and a careful deduction of her

her laws from thence. This ſtamped intrinſic value on all his writings; and enabled him to introduce a more rational and ſucceſsful practice in many difficult caſes.

Cotemporary with Mr. Pott were many in England, who have done honour to their profeſſion and to their country; and the benefit of whoſe labours is ſtill deſcending to thouſands, who know little of the ſource from whence it is derived*. The names of Sir Cæſar Hawkins and Mr. Bromfeild are ſtill in remembrance, and will go down with honour to poſterity†.

* " L'Anatomie que l'on étudie depuis quelque temps " avec tant de ſoin" (ſays M. de Fontenelle, among many other excellent remarks, in his preface on the Labours of the Academy of Sciences) " n'a pû devenir plus exacte, " ſans rendre la Chirurgie beaucoup plus ſûre dans ſes " operations. Les Chirurgiens la ſavent, mais ceux qui " profitent de leur art n'en ſavent rien. Et comment le " ſauroient-ils? Il faudroient qu'ils comparaſſent l'an- " cienne Chirurgie avec la moderne. Ce ſeroit une " grande étude, et qui ne leur convient pas. L'operation a " réûſſi; c'en eſt aſſés; il n'importe gueres de ſavoir ſi " dans une autre ſiècle elle auroit réûſſi de même—— " le public ne jouit du ſuccès qu'elle a eu, qu'avec une " eſpece d'ingratitude."

Eloges des Acad. Tom. I.

† To Sir Cæſar Hawkins we owe the invention of the Cutting Gorget, by which the operation of Lithotomy has been rendered far leſs hazardous and painful; and at the ſame time much more eaſy to be performed.

It would be unjuſt in this place, to omit paying a tribute of reſpect to the extraordinary merit, and indefatigable exertions, of the late Mr. Hunter. Not only have the diſcoveries made by his brother and himſelf in Anatomy and Phyſiology, thrown light on almoſt every part of the animal œconomy; but his careful inveſtigation of thoſe alterations in ſtructure, which take place in parts under the influence of diſeaſe, has been of eſſential advantage both to the theory and practice of Surgery.

But while a few names are mentioned here (and a few only can be mentioned in ſo ſhort a ſketch) let me not be thought inſenſible to the merits of others who are not particularly ſpecified. Many contributions have been made to the treaſury of Chirurgical knowledge, from many different quarters, or it had never contained that ample ſupply of relief which it now affords. "Sacrum ſcientiæ "flumen," ſays an able and elegant writer*, "quod "nunc mirum et pene immenſum contemplamur "et veneramur, ex parvo et ignoto fonte deriva- "tum, labitur atque labetur per omne ævum: primo "exiguus rivus, incrementis quæ plurima, quamvis "lenta accipit, creſcit paulatim in ampliſſimum "amnem, confluentibus nimirum undique innumeris "rivulis, quorum ſinguli cum tanti mole comparati, "nihil

* Gregory, Conſpect. Med. Theor. Tom. I. in pref. p. 60, 61.

" nihil fere ad ejus magnitudinem conferre videntur;
" omnes vero, omnibus congeſtis aquis, flumen
" tandem efficiunt, quale jam ſpectamus, vaſtum,
" amœnum, felicia quæ præterfluit arva irrigans
" atque fœcundans."

It ſhould be remembered that the benefit of thoſe improvements in Surgery which have been made in this country, are by no means confined within our own borders. They have extended to foreign climes, and have attracted pupils hither from all parts of Europe: And what is of more importance for an Engliſh Legiſlature to conſider, is, that they have reached the ſiſter kingdom, and all the immenſe colonies of this extenſive empire. In all of theſe are to be found crouds of ſufferers, from the caſualties of life and the ravages of war, receiving ſolace, relief, and reſtoration, through the aſſiſtance of men, who owe their ability to impart theſe bleſſings, to the labours, the inſtructions, and the example, of the Surgeons of London.

Who would have thought that England, the center of this favoured kingdom, where Surgery has been cultivated with ſuch eminent advantage to mankind, ſhould have been marked out as the preciſe ſpot, where its profeſſors muſt be held up to mockery and deriſion?

Are the talents, the learning, the characters, of thoſe great and able men who have juſt been enu-

merated, ſo ſoon forgotten?—Have they toiled ſo hard to extend health and eaſe to the beds of affliction, that after all, while their aſhes are yet ſcarce cold in their graves, the art they have honoured, enriched, and ennobled, ſhould be treated with ſcorn, where it looked for protection?—

But it is paſt—It cannot be recalled—Surely it will not be repeated.

It is worthy of remark that the ſocieties of Surgeons in Edinburgh and Dublin have both been incorporated as Colleges without any heſitation; and that the latter in particular has received, (as it certainly well deſerved to receive) a liberal ſupply of money from government to carry its purpoſes into effect; while the ſociety in London, the parent of them both, and older by more than three centuries than the latter, has hitherto been confounded with trading companies, and unable to confer any degree of rank on its members, beyond that of ordinary artiſans: And yet, without any aſſiſtance from government, nay chiefly by their exertions as private individuals, they have wholly reformed the practice of Surgery, and have been the inſtruments of as great, if not greater benefit to the public, than the members of any ſimilar inſtitution in Europe.

Their

Their having been paſſed over ſo long, cannot be a reaſon why they ſhould ſtill be neglected. They hope they have deſerved the rank they ſolicit, before they aſk for it; and do not requeſt it merely as an inducement to future exertions. It is of greateſt moment however in this latter view*: For in order to keep up the vigour and perfection of any ſcience, it muſt be permitted to hold out the uſual encouragements for men of talents and property to devote themſelves to it. Theſe encouragements are rank and fortune. The latter is given by the public, to ſuch as are honoured with its confidence; but the former can only be given by the higher orders of the State, for they only have it to beſtow.

The

* This is not an aſſertion upon mere theory. It is decided by experience.—The advancement of Surgery in Scotland, ſince the foundation of the College in Edinburgh is well known. But there were many favourable circumſtances to concur with it. It is more ſtriking in Dublin, where every thing was begun *de novo*, and where, it appears to me, the form of the inſtitution is far more perfect.—"Since we have been formed into a "College" (ſays a Surgeon of the firſt rank and eminence in that city, in a letter to me lately) "our profeſſion has "improved moſt rapidly.—PREVIOUS TO THE YEAR "1780, it was not held in much eſtimation; nor, to ſpeak "truly and fairly, did it deſerve it: NOW I may truly "venture to aſſert, that in every branch of our profeſſion "we are not inferior to our neighbours."

If further proof is wanting, let any judicious and impartial perſon read the Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris, and by them decide whether I have over-rated this part of the argument.

The appeal from the members of a learned profeſſion to the public for pecuniary recompenſe, can only be made by ſuch acts as are the reſult of the learning and ability they poſſeſs; and which, when they have been once performed, may often be imitated by others who are deſtitute of the primary qualifications. It is only a very ſmall part of the maſs of mankind who are able to look beyond the mere outward act; if *that* be performed, it is enough for them. Hence an ignorant empiric ſometimes gains as much of their confidence as a man of ſound information; and an accidental cure ſtrikes their minds as forcibly; and often more ſo, than one conducted on the true principles of ſcience; even where nothing but the true principles of ſcience could avail.

But the appeal from a learned profeſſion to the Legiſlature for ſuitable rank, goes on a very different principle. It it is an appeal *from* men of learning, *to* men of learning—who need not to be informed by what preparatory exerciſes the mind is to be formed for the inveſtigation of a particular ſcience; who know from experience the gradations of knowledge by which they have been qualified for their own high ſtation, and can judge of thoſe by which others muſt be fitted for a profeſſion equally difficult, though of leſs figure on the theatre of the world. The public ſee the motions of the hand; but the Legiſlature will ſee the ſprings which

which move it, and the combination of powers which regulates their effect.

The influence of rank, whether civil or profeſſional, on the mind, is not to be diſputed. Is has indeed been ſaid, that *rank and title are mere names*——But they are the names of things. They may be miſapplied, or unworthily beſtowed—but they are good in themſelves; and he is an enemy to ſociety; whoſe weakneſs or wickedneſs would impel him to aboliſh them.

But if the Surgeons of London are to be denied this rank, already beſtowed on their junior brethren; at leaſt let the vitality of their company, which has not been loſt by miſconduct, but by misfortune, or rather by the diſpoſals of Providence—at leaſt let this be reſtored them: Let not the public, in theſe days, when inſtruction waits in every ſtreet—let not the public be again expoſed to the unreſiſted inroads of ignorant and unprincipled pretenders.

The calamities which it is the office of Surgery to relieve, are among the moſt painful and diſtreſſing to which human nature is liable. They include the whole claſs of external diſeaſes, and all thoſe effects of internal ones, which require manual operation. And however loathſome or diſguſting ſome of theſe may appear, let it be remembered they

are

are common to all mankind: to the high, and to the low; to the rich, and to the poor; to the feeble, the ſtrong, and the proud. The patronage of Surgery, therefore, is a common cauſe—It is that in which every individual is perſonally intereſted: For on its perfection or decay, the enjoyment, the prolongation, or the loſs of his life, may depend.

I know very well there is a propenſity in all men to aggrandize their own profeſſion—It is a natural infirmity. But this will ſurely be allowed—that whatever can call into action the beſt and brighteſt faculties of the human mind, without debaſing its moral worth—that profeſſion, be it whatever it may, demands the reſpect, and the recompenſe of ſociety.

Whether or not Surgery will abide this teſt, it needs only common ſenſe to determine.

If, as has juſt been obſerved, Surgery includes the treatment of external diſeaſes, and ſuch effects of internal ones, as require manual operation, it is eaſy to perceive that it is built exactly on the ſame foundation, and requires the ſame degree of knowledge as Phyſic; of which it is unqueſtionably the moſt ancient and eſſential part. Indeed they were always blended in the practice of thoſe famous men of old, ſeveral of whom were deified and adored by a people, ignorant, is is true, of religion,

gion, but very well acquainted with the policy of nations.

However the whole of Medicine was then in a very rude and imperfect ſtate: Its ſphere was narrow, and its effects were leſs evident. Now an important alteration has taken place, which has enlarged its ſphere, and multiplied its effects beyond all compariſon. It is therefore become neceſſary that the two branches of it ſhould be cultivated diſtinctly in a large metropolis, where the profeſſors of each can be fully employed, and ſufficiently rewarded: And it is from the ſeparation of each that both have been improved.

Yet while they are ſeparated in practice, they cannot be in *theory*. Here they are alike: They only differ ſomewhat in appearance and form;

——— ———" Facies non omnibus una,
Non diverſa tamen, qualem debet eſſe ſororum."

But I will not, by any obſervations of mine, preclude the reader from the pleaſure of peruſing the following admirable and judicious remarks on this ſubject.

" En enviſageant avec la moindre attention " l'objet de ces deux arts" (La Medicine et la Chirurgie) " on voit qu'ils ne peuvent avoir qu'une

" théorie commune. Les maladies externes qui " ſont l'objet de la Chirurgie, ſont eſſentiellement " les mêmes que les maladies internes qui ſont " l'objet de la Médicine: Elles ne different en " rien que par leur poſition. Ces objets ont la " même importance, ils préſentent les mêmes " indications, et les mêmes moyens de curation.

" Quoique la théorie de la Medicine et de la " Chirurgie ſoit le même, et qu'elle ne ſoit que " l'aſſemblage de toutes les regles et de tous les " préceptes qui apprennent à guérir, il ne s'enſuit " pas que le Médecin et le Chirurgien ſoient des " êtres que l'on puiſſe, ou que l'on doive confondre. " Un homme qu'on ſuppoſera pourvû de toutes " les connoiſſances théoriques générales, mais en " qui on ne ſuppoſera rien de plus, ne ſera ni " Chirurgien ni Médecin. Il faut pour former un " Médecin, outre l'acquiſition de la ſciénce qui " apprend à guérir, l'habileté d'appliquer les " regles de cette ſciénce aux maladies internes: " De même ſi on veut faire un Chirurgien, il faut " qu'il acquierre l'habitude, la facilité, l'habileté " d'appliquer ces mêmes regles aux maladies ex- " terieures.

" La ſciénce ne donne pas cette habileté pour " l'application des regles; elle dicte ſimplement ces " regles, et voilà tout. C'eſt par l'exercice qu'on " apprend à les appliquer, et par l'exercice ſous un

" maître

« maître inſtruit dans la pratique. L'etude donne « la ſciénce ; mais on ne peut acquérir l'art, ou l'ha- « bitude de l'application des regles, qu'en voyant et « revoyant les objets : c'eſt une habitude des ſens « qu'il faut acquérir ; et ce n'eſt que par l'habitude « de ces mêmes ſens qu'elle peut être acquiſe."*

I beg leave to add that while there are peculiarities belonging to the ſtudy of Phyſic, which make it in ſome reſpects ſuperior to Surgery ; there are alſo peculiarities belonging to Surgery, which make it in other reſpects ſuperior to Phyſic.

A comparatively general knowledge of the anatomy of the human body may be ſufficient for a Phyſician, (the Viſcera excepted, which he muſt thoroughly and minutely underſtand,) The reſt it will be enough for him to have ſeen repeatedly diſſected. But the hands of the Surgeon muſt be conſtantly employed in this work : He ought to bear every part of this complicated machine, and all the relative ſituations of each, as accurately in his mind, as the painter or the ſculptor ſhould its outline, and general proportions. For he is often to wound, in order that he may heal ; and to employ his knife on a living body, endued with acute ſenſation, generally under the influence of terror

* Encyclopédie, Tom. III. p. 351. Art. CHIRURGIE. (Edit. Genev. 1722.)

and alarm, and where a ſmall miſtake may ſometimes coſt the patient his life.

Many of the diſcoveries and improvements in Phyſic have been owing to mere accident, which firſt taught men the virtues of drugs, and made thoſe experiments for them, which otherwiſe they would hardly have thought of, or have had courage to attempt. But moſt of the improvements in Surgery, have originated in reaſoning *à priori*, and from diſcoveries by anatomical inveſtigation.

"Chirurgia quidem medicamenta atque victûs "rationem non omittit," (ſays Celſus) "ſed manu "tamen plurimum præſtat; ESTQUE EJUS EF- "FECTUS INTER OMNES MEDICINÆ PARTES "EVIDENTISSIMUS."*

But I will purſue this diſtinction no further. Phyſic and Surgery have the ſame origin and the ſame end.—The human body is the ſphere of their exertions; and whatever compoſes it, whatever can affect it, in matter, vitality, or mind, is the object of their reſearches.

Here I might lay down my pen, confident of the ſucceſs of a ſecond application to Parliament, were it

* De Medicinâ, Lib. VII. in præfat.

it not for one unpleaſing circumſtance, which it is now of importance to conſider.

When the Court of Aſſiſtants of the Surgeons Company determined on an application to Parliament, not merely for a renovation of their powers, but alſo to be erected into a College, one conſiderable difficulty preſented itſelf.

It has been cuſtomary for Medical Colleges to conſiſt of a very limited number of members, and to permit others to practiſe in the diſtrict over which they preſide, under the denomination of Licentiates only. In this caſe the College is a little republic; all its members having votes, and being eligible to its offices in their turn. But as the term Licentiate implies ſomewhat of inferiority, or at leaſt is generally felt as doing ſo, it ſeemed improper to admit it into the propoſed College of Surgeons here.

The number of the Company's members had become very conſiderable indeed, amounting to more than ſixteen hundred, including thoſe reſident beyond the bills of mortality. But as the government had always been veſted in the Court of Aſſiſtants, no confuſion had ariſen from this circumſtance. The members however were all equally permitted to practiſe, and entitled to the ſame immunities; and proper perſons were ſelected from among

among them, to fill up vacancies in the Court of Aſſiſtants, when they happened to occur.

As they had all hitherto been equal in privileges, and excepting the municipal diſtinctions of the Court, equal alſo in rank, it would have appeared very hard and unjuſt to make an invidious diſtinction between them now, and would have afforded reaſonable ground for complaint. It was therefore reſolved, as the faireſt, moſt honourable, and unexceptionable plan, to beg of Parliament, that *all* the members of the Company ſhould be conſidered as members of the College; but that the government of it, might be continued on the ſame plan exactly as it had been before. Nobody could then be aggrieved; for the alteration would make no difference to any ſingle individual, except denominating him the member of a College, inſtead of the member of a Company*.

Yet, ſtrange to tell, this very circumſtance has occaſioned the moſt violent and illiberal abuſe to be poured upon the Court of Aſſiſtants, from thoſe very members, whoſe peace and reſpectability were thus honourably attempted to be preſerved inviolate.

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* Notwithſtanding this, no idea has been more induſtriouſly propagated, nor more generally received, than that the principal intention of the bill was to degrade all the members of the company into the rank of *Licentiates*, the Court of Aſſiſtants only excepted.

The bill has been repreſented as "rivetting "chains to bind and gall them and their poſterity"—"an iniquitous plan—luckily expoſed in time to be "defeated, which will not be ſuffered to diſgrace "the legiſlature---intended to convey arbitrary "powers"---againſt which it is neceſſary "to excite "the indignation and reſiſtance of every liberal "mind."——The College propoſed to be erected, has been called, "A lucrative jobbing aſſociation--- "the proprietors and managers of which were to make "their fortunes, by receiving bribes to ſecure the ſuc- "ceſſion into it---an oppreſſive and unjuſt mono- "poly---a proſtitution of names," &c. &c. &c.*

Had all this been uttered in private converſation merely, it would not have been worth while to notice it from the preſs. But as it has been repeatedly circulated in print; as it has been brought into Parliament, and occaſioned the bill to be loſt; and as it has been ſpread, with the moſt glaring exaggerations all over the kingdom---juſtice, honour, and decency require, that a proper anſwer ſhould be given.

In

* All theſe expreſſions are taken from a letter which was firſt circulated with the ſignature of A. B. but afterwards reprinted, and ſent round to the members of the Houſe of Peers, ſigned by the Chairman of the Committee for conducting the oppoſition: A gentleman, whom I am perſuaded, in his private capacity, and not heated by controverſy, would have loathed to ſet his name to ſuch a performance.

In attempting this, however, I will not repeat the expreſſions above quoted, nor extract others, equally exceptionable, from the different papers which have been diſtributed; but ſimply confine myſelf to the ſum of the arguments brought forward, and let the *terms* in which many of them were conveyed, ſink into the oblivion they merit.

In the firſt place, very heavy charges have been brought againſt the Court of Aſſiſtants, for having preſented a petition to Parliament for a new act, without firſt convening and conſulting the members of the Corporation at large. The impropriety of this complaint, will, I think, be ſufficiently evident, when it is conſidered that the act of the 18th of George II. had for very good and neceſſary reaſons, as will preſently be ſhown, veſted the whole rule and management of all the affairs of the company, in the Court of Aſſiſtants, and in them only. Parliament, therefore, could know nothing of the company, or of the ſtate it was in, but from the Court of Aſſiſtants. It had empowered them alone "to hold courts and aſſemblies, in order to treat "and conſult about and concerning the rule, order, "STATE," (an expreſſion particularly applying to the late circumſtances) "and government of the ſaid "company or corporation;" and alſo, "to make, "ordain, &c. from time to time, ſuch bye-laws, or-

"dinances,

" dinances, rules and *conſtitutions*, as to them ſhall " ſeem requiſite, profitable, and convenient for its " regulation, government, and advantage." Hence there is no inſtance on record in which the members at large had ever been convened on any buſineſs whatever, but the alteration of the quarterage, which the 31ſt bye-law had ordained, ſhould never be increaſed beyond the rate of ten ſhillings per annum, without the conſent of a majority of the whole court of the company*.

It is a great miſtake to call the members at large, the *conſtituents* of the Court. On the contrary, the Court are, and the purpoſes for which they are incorporated make it unavoidable that they ſhould be, the conſtituents of the members. The court derive their authority, not from a popular election, but immediately from the legiſlative power. It is a truſt committed to them for civil purpoſes, and every member who enters the company, receives all

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* The members have only been convened *three times* ſince the ſeparation from the Barbers. The firſt was July 3, 1746, when they were acquainted with the proceedings of the Court in conſequence of the ſeparation, and invited to dine on a brace of Bucks, preſented by his Majeſty to the Court of Examiners.—The ſecond was Auguſt 12, 1766, when the quarterage was increaſed to ſixteen ſhillings per annum on the members in general, and one pound twelve ſhillings on each member of the Court of Aſſiſtants.—The laſt was November 4, 1784, when it was reduced to ten ſhillings, at which it has ever ſince continued.

the privileges to which he then becomes entitled, through their hands, as delegates from government, and accordingly takes an oath to obey them in all lawful things.

Moreover it was not to be ſuppoſed that any of the members, having taken that oath, and entered into the company under the conſtitution eſtabliſhed by the old act, could have a reaſonable objection to make againſt either of the propoſed alterations.* None of them infringed in the ſmalleſt degree on their privileges, or gave the Court of Aſſiſtants the leaſt additional power over them. The additional power had reſpect to none but future ſettlers between the diſtance of ſeven and ten miles round London. Indeed this could not be properly called an *additional* power; it was only an extenſion of the *ſame* power to *other objects;* and could not be an injury, but on the contrary, muſt be a benefit to the members of the company at large, as it tended more effectually to prevent unqualified perſons from invading their privileges.

The neceſſity of a further exemption from the operation of the ſtatute of Mortmain was ſufficiently clear. It was proved in evidence before the Houſe of Lords, that the certain and unavoidable expenditure of the company amounts to more than nine hundred

* Vide p. 5, 6.

hundred pounds per annum. Its income, however, is very uncertain; depending almoſt entirely on the fees paid by perſons who receive the diploma. The quarterage of two ſhillings and ſixpence, paid by the members reſident within the metropolis and ſeven miles round it, brings in but about 160*l.* or 170*l.* per annum; and Mr. Gunning had propoſed to Mr. Chandler, to move, if the bill had paſſed, that it might be entirely aboliſhed. For if the Company were once at liberty to employ the ſurplus of their receipts toward realizing an income equal to their expences, a way would be open to free its members of all ſtated contributions, and in time, to leſſen the amount of the fees that are paid on admiſſion, and form ſeveral eſtabliſhments for the advancement of ſcience, which it would be improper to attempt till this object be attained. For without it, the Company might by ſo doing become again inſolvent; its officers of courſe would be fettered and degraded in all their proceedings, and no inſtitutions they could ſet on foot would have that proſpect of perpetuity, without which it would hardly be deſirable to eſtabliſh them.

That clauſe in the act which appointed the Chirurgical Lectures to be given by the members of the council only, ſeems to have been very ill received; I apprehend, only becauſe it has not been rightly underſtood. Let it be conſidered that the

lectures thus limited, were the Chirurgical Lectures *alone*. Theſe were firſt inſtituted in the year 1790, on the ſuggeſtion of Mr. Gunning, and are confined, as he has expreſſed it, "To thoſe points "which tend only to real practice, and the eſtabliſh-"ment of good principles," deduced from experience and well arranged facts. It muſt ſurely be eaſy to perceive the neceſſity of appointing ſuch lectures to be given by perſons whoſe abilities are improved and matured by years and experience, and to take care they ſhall be given by *no others*. Lectures indeed on anatomy, and perhaps on phyſiology, and ſeveral other ſubjects, may be given as well, and in ſome inſtances better, by younger perſons. Accordingly all ſuch appointments were left open, that any member of competent abilities might be choſen from the body at large to fill them. But practical lectures are of too much importance, and demand habits of thinking too long and too firmly eſtabliſhed, to be entruſted by a College to any but perſons of conſiderable ſtanding in the profeſſion. In what way this point could have been better ſecured, or partiality to individuals more effectually prevented, than by the reſtriction contained in the act, I am at preſent unable to conceive.

The time when theſe Lectures were appointed to be given—between the fifteenth day of May and the thirteenth day of June in every year, has been objected

objected to as inconvenient and improper*. The reaſon for fixing this time, was, that they might immediately ſucceed the anatomical courſes, which generally terminate early in May. The principal object in view was to furniſh the army and navy Surgeons and their Mates with a body of ſound practical inſtruction, free of expence, that there might be no plea in future for ſending perſons into thoſe important ſervices, who are not properly qualified†. But if they were given before the anatomical lectures are over, they could not be thoroughly

* Vid. "Obſervations on the Surgeons Bill," p. 4.

† How important it is that ſome regulation of this kind ſhould be adopted, it can hardly be neceſſary for me to ſtate. The deplorable ignorance and incompetence of many who have been employed as Surgeons Mates, in the naval, and in ſome of the military departments, has been often remarked; and is owing in great meaſure to there being no public means of inſtruction provided for them by Government. The public are, in my opinion, greatly indebted to the Governors of the Company for attempting to remedy a part of this defect. Hitherto the Court of Examiners have been very painfully circumſtanced. The ſervices muſt be ſupplied with aſſiſtance of ſome ſort or other, and all they have been able to do, was to enquire into the abilities of ſuch candidates as preſented themſelves, and to take care that thoſe who were beſt qualified, ſhould be preferred to the higheſt ſtations. And it is well known, that even with this lax ſyſtem, the dearth of Hoſpital mates has been ſo great during the preſent war, that Government have been repeatedly obliged to adverti ſe for them, and to offer very unuſual ſalaries.

From this, and ſeveral other circumſtances which might be named, ariſes the neceſſity of calling the naval and military Surgeons to a ſecond examination, before they receive a diploma.

thoroughly underſtood; anatomical knowledge being an eſſential pre-requiſite to improvement in Surgery. Still however, Anatomy is not Surgery—It was therefore thought neceſſary that attendance on theſe lectures, or on ſome others of a ſimilar nature ſhould be *required* of all who were ſent into the army or navy, without any exception.—But if, on the one hand, they could not be attended gratis, it would be unjuſt to inſiſt on this, for many could not afford to pay for them; and if they were to be given in any other order than that meant to be ſecured by this proviſion, they would be, comparatively, of very little uſe*.

But the moſt material objections to be conſidered, are thoſe which have been made againſt the principle on which this bill, and alſo the act of the 18th of George II. were framed, and which are pointed againſt the conſtitution of the Company in

* The order in which the different branches of ſcience ſhould be attended to, ſeems very little regarded by the greater number of ſtudents who come up to town for inſtruction. It is however one of the moſt important conſiderations in medical education. How is the underſtanding of a pupil to keep pace with the reaſoning of a lecturer, who diſcourſes on the pathology of a diſeaſe, or the beſt method of performing an operation, unleſs he be previouſly acquainted with the ſtructure, relative ſituation, and functions of thoſe parts, to which the teacher refers?—Indeed, whatever be the ſubject of enquiry, it will always be found that ORDER is the clue of knowledge.

in toto. To commit the whole management of the Company's concerns to twenty-one perſons, appears to ſome Gentlemen to partake too much of that ariſtocracy, which has been of late ſo ſucceſsfully blown up with revolutionary gunpowder in ſeveral parts of Europe. To exorciſe this frightful fiend from "the affairs of this extenſive and increaſing "corporation," various expedients have been ſuggeſted: Expedients indeed ſo various, that it is plain the ſubject had been very imperfectly conſidered by the parties who brought them forward.

One was, to make the officers of the Company annually elective; and then every body would have a chance of getting in ſome time or other.

The annual election of the Preſident and Council of the Royal Society furniſhed a pretext for this propoſal. But the caſe is not parallel. The Royal Society is a literary body merely, having no civil duty to diſcharge; but the Surgeons Company is, as has been already obſerved, primarily and eſſentially a civil inſtitution; compoſed indeed of perſons who are, or ought to be, literary men; but a civil inſtitution notwithſtanding—in which nothing can be of greater importance, than that thoſe who are entruſted with the governing power, ſhould be perſons of tried ability and INDEPENDENCE.

But

But to adopt this alteration would produce a dependence of the moſt odious kind. It would be making the old dependent on the young—the experienced on the inexperienced. We ſhould then have our heads on the ground, and our feet up in the air, *tout nouveau.*

Another plan was to let the preſent twenty-one remain as they are, but to unite with them twenty-one more, choſen by the body at large, one third of whom ſhould go out annually, and others be elected in their ſtead. This reminds one of Julius Scaliger's diviſion of all things into the *Res permanentes*, and the *Res fluentes*. But this device, pregnant with diſcord and confuſion, met with little acceptance.

The laſt (I think it was the laſt) was to leave the preſent twenty-one as they are, but to conſtitute an intermediate body of one hundred, either choſen by the reſt, or being the ſenior members, to whom all reſolutions relating to pecuniary, and ſome other affairs, ſhould be referred for confirmation, before they were carried into effect.

But that any perſon, who properly underſtands the nature of the inſtitution, can ſeriouſly contend for the neceſſity or propriety of ſuch an alteration, is almoſt inconceivable. I am fully perſuaded if the noble and very learned peer, who coincided with

with ſomething like the latter plan, would condeſcend to re-conſider the ſubject, he could not fail of being ſtruck with its groſs impropriety.

What can a governing body direct or do in any ſociety, if they are not to be entruſted with the management of its funds? They muſt be fettered at every ſtep. It was very judiciouſly obſerved (I think by Lord Loughborough) in the late debate, that to refuſe them this, would be like telling a man he is at liberty to do whatever he thinks proper, while at the ſame time you are tying his hands. The Court of Aſſiſtants, or Council, or whatever they are to be called, never were, nor ever deſired to be, inveſted with power to employ the money entruſted to them, for any other than thoſe public purpoſes, for which they were originally appointed. The queſtion is—Who ſhould judge what is neceſſary for thoſe purpoſes? The Council themſelves, who are conſtantly in the habit of fulfilling them, or a larger and more promiſcuous body? Surely if twenty-one perſons of liberal education, who by their talents and years have at length arrived at the head of a learned profeſſion, who are acquainted with the nature of public buſineſs, and for the moſt part independent in their circumſtances, are not to be truſted with the management of an expenditure amounting to about a thouſand pounds a year, we muſt be in a deſperate

caſe indeed, and not likely to be remedied by appealing to a larger multitude, born, in all probability, with the ſame infirmities as their progenitors and cotemporaries*.

But after all, what is the property of the Corporation? Is it the common ſtock of a benefit-club, or a trading company?—Certainly not—It is rather the revenue of a civil department which ſupports itſelf. This revenue, it is true, is collected from thoſe who are admitted to practiſe Surgery; becauſe they are the only perſons who reap any pecuniary advantages from that permiſſion, and Government have not thought it right to burden the public, in order to exonerate them of the expences attending their own privileges. I can hardly believe a ſingle member of the Company to have been ſo inadvertent or miſ-informed when he paid his admittance money, as to expect he ſhould ever have any further power or controul over it. He paid it, after his qualifications had been aſcertained by examination, as the price of a diploma, or legal teſtimonial of his abilities, in right of which he has the privilege of practiſing Surgery in any part of his Majeſty's dominions, and is exempted, as long as he ſo practiſes, "from all pariſh, "ward,

* It may be proper to remark in this place, that the controul of the expenditure and bye-laws, is not placed in the Court of Examiners, but in that of the Aſſiſtants, a majority of whom are not Examiners.

" ward, and leet offices, and from being put into, or " ſerving upon, any jury or inqueſt." The money paid for this diploma therefore ceaſes to be his, in every ſenſe of the word, as ſoon as he has paid it; and becomes a part of that revenue by which the inſtitution is ſupported, from whence he derives his grant.

The great plea for the neceſſity of an alteration in the conſtitution of the Company has been founded on a very able ſtatement, or review, of their affairs, which was drawn up and read to the Court of Aſſiſtants by Mr. Gunning, when he quitted the office of Maſter in July 1790. In this ſtatement ſeveral inſtances of neglect and miſmanagement were pointed out, and regulations propoſed for preventing them in future. But as it was addreſſed to the Court of Aſſiſtants only, without the moſt diſtant idea of being ever made public, the errors which had been committed were ſimply detailed, without being traced to their original cauſes. Had this been the object in view, ſeveral circumſtances would have been adduced to account for them, and to exculpate the Governors from a part of the blame they may appear to have deſerved.

The miſmanagements alluded to, as far as they can reſpect the preſent ſubject, are reducible to three heads—Inattention to their minutes and

accounts—neglect in the conduct of their lectures—and unneceſſary expences.

With regard to the *firſt* head, the principal faults will be found to have ariſen from informality in the arrangement of buſineſs; a fruitful ſource of error and perplexity. It is very properly obſerved by a ſenſible writer, "Les dehors et la "forme demandent les premiers ſoins, dans les "etabliſſemens mêmes qu'on fait pour les progrès "des ſciences." But we muſt acquit the Governors of the Company of much apparent neglect on this article, if we conſider the circumſtances under which they began to exerciſe their functions.

When they were firſt ſeparated in the year 1745, from the Barbers Company, (where many unpropitious cuſtoms had long prevailed) they lay under almoſt every diſadvantage it is poſſible to conceive. They found themſelves with a public duty to diſcharge, and were to hold courts and aſſemblies for that purpoſe; but they had neither a place to meet in, nor property to purchaſe one: For the hall, the lands, and the whole ſtock of the joint Company, except two ſpecific ſums which will preſently be mentioned*, were given up to the Barbers, who, as is before obſerved, would conſent to

* Arris and Gale's legacies.

to the ſeparation on no other terms. In this ſtate Government gave them no aſſiſtance*; they had no endowments to ſupport them; they were therefore obliged to borrow £4000. on bonds, to erect a Hall, and thus became encumbered with a heavy debt, that was not liquidated till the end of the year 1784. All this time the current expences were to be diſcharged in their courſe, and in the year 1780, the clerk (Cruttenden) of whoſe integrity no ſuſpicion had ever been entertained, (but who had been imprudently confided in) went off with eight or nine hundred pounds of their money.

In this long, unſettled, encumbered ſtate of things, which laſted near *forty years*, it is no wonder irregularities crept into the management of their minutes and accounts, which at length became habitual. It is with public bodies as it is with individuals: An embarraſſed ſtate of their finances often produces a degree of perplexity and concern about the preſent exigency, that renders cool and deliberate arrangement for the future leaſt practicable when it is moſt needed. However it muſt be remembered the embarraſſments of the Company did not originate in their irregularities, their irregularities aroſe from their embarraſſments, and thoſe embarraſſments were unavoidable. It is much eaſier to find out errors after they have been committed

* Indeed it does not appear they ever aſked for any; and their neglecting to do ſo was perhaps as blameable as any thing that has ſince been imputed to them.

mitted than it is to foreſee them at firſt; for it is often by their effects only that we diſcover them to be errors.

This inſolvent ſtate of their affairs was, no doubt, one principal occaſion of the careleſs and deſultory manner in which the anatomical lectures were conducted; as it prevented them from making their hall a regular ſchool of anatomy, which they might otherwiſe have done, when the ſeparation firſt took place.

Some lectures they were obliged to read. Five hundred guineas were given by Sir Edward Arris, at the latter part of the laſt century, "for the uſe "of the public anatomy lectures on the muſcles;" and an annuity of ſixteen pounds was bequeathed by Mr. John Gale, about the ſame time, "for one "anatomy lecture to be given annually, by the "name of Gale's anatomy,"—making in the whole a proviſion of 41l. 10s. per annum.* But this being all that could then be appropriated to that purpoſe, and as they were without a ſuitable collection of anatomical preparations, they made no attempt to enlarge their plan at that time, and ſoon afterward it was evidently too late. Several private ſchools had been eſtabliſhed, which acquired and deſerved great re-

* Theſe are the only donations which have ever been given to the Company.

reputation. In theſe, not only the whole ſtructure of the human body was explained, but the arts of diſſecting and making anatomical preparations were taught, and attracted a great number of pupils. The teachers were enabled to form very large and intereſting collections, which both made their lectures more inviting, and increaſed their own repute with the public. Others were therefore rouſed to follow the ſame example, and met with a good ſhare of ſucceſs. Meanwhile the lectures at the hall fell, of courſe, into neglect, were ill-attended, and at length ſeemed hardly worth attending to, either by the Company, or the public.

That they have not more regularly given *Chirurgical* lectures, is an omiſſion for which there is no ſufficient excuſe. Several of the members have indeed, at different periods, read lectures of this deſcription; particularly Mr. Pott and Mr. Hunter; ſo that no chaſm in the ſyſtem of education has been the conſequence of this neglect: But a neglect it is, and no proof can be given of the wiſh of the *preſent Governors* to atone for it, more convincing, than their having ſolicited that a courſe of ſuch lectures might be required by the propoſed Act of Parliament, and thus made a condition of the College's exiſtence.

As to the unneceſſary expences, there is only one article which can be juſtly complained of—namely, the dinners, which it muſt be confeſſed had been

been made a great deal too coſtly, *between the year* 1784, *and the time when Mr. Gunning's ſtatement was drawn up.** But of the £170 there ſaid to be ſaved in this article in one year, it muſt be recollected £80. were by aboliſhing *the annual dinner of the whole Company*, which coſt the fund that ſum, in addition to what was paid for the tickets. So that there were, at that time, private members who could ſympathize with the governors in theſe extravagancies.

However they have been long ſince retrenched, and are not very likely to be repeated.

The Court have been accuſed of increaſing their own fees.—The only alteration that has taken place in this reſpect, is, making the allowance to each member of the Court of *Aſſiſtants*,† who is preſent punctually at the time appointed for meeting, half a guinea, inſtead of half a crown, which was the fee at Barber's Hall. But as theſe meetings are only held four times in the year, unleſs ſome extraordinary occaſion occurs, and as each member of this Court pays an additional ſum of twenty pounds to the general fund, on accepting his office, the

* And only during that period.

† The fees of the *Examiners* have never been changed.

the Company is not likely to be much impoverished by what is afterwards given for their ſervices.

I will juſt ſay one word here, reſpecting the purchaſe of Mr. Baldwin's Houſe in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, which has been called extravagant, improvident, inconvenient, and ſo forth. The motives for removing from the Old Bailey have already been ſtated*: How far the choice of this houſe was adviſable or not, let the following conſiderations determine.

The fee ſimple of theſe premiſes was bought for £5500. But in order to aſcertain the real expence (I ought to ſay the real ſaving) to the Company, or rather to that revenue of which the Company's Court of Aſſiſtants are the truſtees, the following calculation muſt be made.

The old Hall and premiſes were held at an annual expence, for ground-rent and taxes, of - -	£240
Taxes of Mr. Baldwin's houſe, -	80
The annual ſaving in this article therefore, is	£160

* Page 2.

Take this at only twenty years purchaſe, the amount is - -		£3200
Eſtimate of repairs wanted at the old hall,		2000
Price at which it ſold, -		2100
		£7300
Mr. Baldwin's houſe coſt	£5500	
Alterations neceſſary for a Library, Theatre, &c. including a convenience near the Old Bailey, for the diſſection of executed felons, - -	800	
	£6300	
Money ſaved—		£1000*

And the eſtate a freehold, inſtead of a leaſehold.

In one reſpect only could this removal be conſidered as unfortunate—namely, in having given offence to ſome very reſpectable gentlemen in the neighbourhood, who objected to diſſection being carried on ſo near them. In order to obviate this difficulty, a clauſe was added to the act, ordering a receptacle to be built near the place of execution, for that purpoſe.

In

* Since the firſt edition of this Pamphlet was publiſhed, it has been ſuggeſted to me that I have eſtimated the alterations too low. However, ſuppoſing them to coſt £1500. which is the higheſt calculation I have heard, there would ſtill remain a balance of £300 in favour of the purchaſe.

In order that the particulars detailed in Mr. Gunning's ſtatement might be made to appear in a more unfavourable light, the opponents of the bill have carefully caſt up and exhibited the whole amount of the ſums received by the Company and its Officers, while that of the expenditure has been kept out of ſight, except only in thoſe articles which might furniſh matter for detraction, and ungenerous comment. I paſs over thoſe eſtimates which were repeatedly circulated, but have been proved to be falſe*, and ſhall notice only thoſe which are admitted to be true, but have not been fairly repreſented†.

It has been ſtated in the moſt formal manner, that ſince the act of the 18th of George II. the Court have received for diplomas, quarterages, &c. the ſum of eighty thouſand pounds; and that of this money the Examiners have taken ſixteen thouſand pounds for their own private uſe; though they pretend to have examined all perſons offering themſelves as candidates to be Surgeons or Surgeons Mates, in the Navy and Army, and in the ſervice of the Eaſt India Company, without any recompence whatever‡.

It muſt be confeſſed that eighty thouſand pounds, and ſixteen thouſand pounds, are very

 high

* In the papers before quoted.

† Obſervations on the Surgeons Bill. p. 3. ‡ Ibid.

high ſounding ſums, and make an excellent figure in a Philippic: But if inſtead of being viewed in the groſs, they are taken in detail, it will give a more juſt idea to the reader.

Theſe eighty thouſand pounds are the aggregate receipt of fifty-two years—But let the current expences of the eſtabliſhment be averaged at £900 per annum, which is the loweſt they can be taken at, they will amount to £46800, and the account will ſtand nearly as follows;

Fifty-two years at £900, - -	£46800
Expence of erecting the old hall, -	4000
Purchaſe of Mr. Baldwin's Houſe, -	5500
£10,000 ſtock in the 3 per Cents. bought at 75 on an average, - -	7500
Examiners' and Aſſiſtants' fees, -	16000
	£79800

As to the £16000 which the Examiners and Aſſiſtants have received in fees, this alſo is the aggregate of the receipts during fifty-two years. The Examiners are always ten in number, and ſuppoſing *them* to have received it all, it would only amount, on an average, to £30-15s. and a fraction, yearly to each. At firſt it was rather leſs, now it is rather more, but rarely amounts to £50 in the courſe of any one year. For this they are obliged to attend from ſix-

teen

teen to thirty times in the courſe of the year, and ſit during the whole evening, let their other engagements be what they may. And when it is conſidered that this obligation lies, and always muſt lie, on gentlemen of the higheſt rank in the profeſſion, this compenſation can hardly be thought too much.

The manner in which the Examiners are paid, is this—Each Examiner who is preſent in the Committee Room by the time appointed for meeting, receives half a guinea of the money paid for each *diploma* that is granted that evening. If no diploma be granted, he receives one half guinea only for his attendance. For the examination of *Surgeons and Surgeons Mates for the Army and Navy, and the Eaſt India Company's ſervice*, (of whom in time of war from thirty to forty are ſometimes examined in an evening) THEY *receive nothing at all.*

But as it is neceſſary that thoſe who receive permiſſion to practiſe, ſhould pay a quota of the expences by which the eſtabliſhment is ſupported, through which they receive it, proportioned to the emolument they are likely to derive from that permiſſion; it has been uſual for thoſe who receive the diploma, and ſettle in London, or within

within ſeven miles thereof, to pay £27-10s.* Thoſe who ſettle beyond ſeven miles pay only half that ſum, but engage to pay the other half, if they ſhould remove to within that diſtance. Army and Navy Surgeons, and thoſe in the ſervice of the Eaſt India Company, pay three guineas, and all mates one guinea, for that purpoſe. The Examiners meet once a month in time of peace, and twice a month in time of war. If any perſon cannot wait the regular meeting of the Court, an extraordinary one is ſummoned, for which the perſon applying pays five guineas extra, which is divided among ſuch of the Examiners as attend: but it is impoſſible this can happen often.

It muſt be acknowledged that this mode of paying the Examiners is ſomewhat exceptionable; although it is highly proper they ſhould receive ſome compenſation for their trouble, and loſs of time. But it is not eaſy to ſay what method would be better. In the year 1790, a propoſal was made by Mr. Gunning (then Maſter of the Company) to a noble Lord at that time in high office, for Government to allow a ſalary of four or five hundred pounds a year, to be divided between the members of the Court of Examiners.--- As they examined for the Army and Navy ſervices, it

* And, except the quarterage, no additional contribution has ever been called for.

it was thought reaſonable to make ſuch a requeſt. If this had been acceded to, the fees they receive would have been aboliſhed. But his Lordſhip thought it better they ſhould continue to pay themſelves, as every allowance of this kind muſt come through Parliament. Soon after this the war commenced, and it was thought an improper time to urge the matter further.

What then is there, in all theſe things, that calls for any eſſential change in the principle of the inſtitution?—Let it be remembered, that ſo far as miſmanagements have been detected, the Court of Aſſiſtants have been their own accuſers, by admitting the free examination of their books and proceedings. The whole pretence for accuſation reſts on their conduct of their own buſineſs, in which the complainers had no right to intermeddle. All the reſt is ſurmiſe. For with regard to their conduct toward the Company at large, not a ſingle abuſe of power has hitherto been diſcovered; not one complaint has ever been exhibited.

Howbeit, Tyranny, Oppreſſion, and Abuſe, thoſe portentous goblins which ſtart from every buſh and brake to terrify modern reformers by day, and haunt them like the night-mare in their ſlumbers, have not failed to employ their wizard ſpells on the preſent occaſion: for though fifty-two

years

years have elapſed, in which they have not dared to ſhew their frightful faces among us; the moſt alarming apprehenſions are now entertained, leſt they ſhould at laſt jump up from the chaſm in the Company, and graſp a whole army of Surgeons in their claws.

One of the Counſel againſt the bill thought he deſcried theſe monſters peeping forth from that clauſe in the act, which ſubjected all who ſhould practiſe or profeſs to practiſe Surgery, within ten miles of London, not having firſt obtained the licence of the College, to a penalty of ten pounds per month. His appalled imagination inſtantly beheld an amazing ſwarm, "who mi-"niſter comfort to the afflicted, *in various ways*," Men-Surgeons and Women-Surgeons, Barber-Surgeons and Cobler-Surgeons, Surgeons who only underſtand ſome particular diſeaſes, and Surgeons who underſtand no diſeaſes at all, marked out as a ſacrifice to this peſtilent contrivance! One would almoſt have imagined he had been retained as the expreſs advocate of this empirical hoſt. Surely, either the learned gentleman muſt have ventured a little—*ultra crepidam*, or his clients had been ſtrangely forgetful, both of their own intereſt, and of the public good.

What manner of purpoſe could it anſwer for any body of men to be incorporated, unleſs the pri-

privileges attached to that incorporation are protected from invaſion, by ſome kind of penalty? What inducement can there be for men of talents and liberal education to devote themſelves to ſuch a profeſſion as Surgery, if the practitioners in it are amenable to no teſt of their abilities; and every impudent pretender, and every frontleſs ſecret-monger, may commit his frauds with impunity*?

The circumſtances under which this penalty ſhould be enforced, muſt certainly be left to the diſcretion of thoſe, to whom the government of the College is entruſted. To inflict it indiſcriminately would anſwer no end, nor could they be ſo fooliſh as to attempt it. Quacks there always will be, for there are always people who will be quacked: but it is neceſſary to put them under ſome ſort of reſtraint, leſt too many murders ſhould chance to be committed.

But the great object of affright and diſmay ſeems to be the power of making bye-laws, which has always been veſted in the Court of Aſſiſtants,

 and

* I very much regret not having room to inſert the very pointed and ſenſible remarks of LE PALINGENE on this ſubject—The learned reader will find them in his Poem, intituled *Zodiacus Vitæ*, page 93, of the Rotterdam edition of 1698—under the ſign Leo. He may alſo turn to page 225, under the ſign Capricorn, where the Poet ſeems to have met with a better claſs of men.

and was to remain with them as the Council of the intended College. Not Briareus himſelf, with his fifty heads and hundred hands, ever inſtilled half ſo much terror into the beſiegers of Olympus, as this wonder-working clauſe has unhappily produced in the minds of ſome panic-ſtricken gentlemen.*

However, moſt phantoms, it is ſaid, will vaniſh when they are ſpoken to; and ſo it fares with this: For the ſlighteſt conſideration will ſhow, that the power of making bye-laws is not that frightful, arbitrary power, which ſome gentlemen imagine; but is perhaps more limited and defined than any other ſpecies of diſcretional truſt, being bounded on every ſide by the ſpecific objects of the ſociety or inſtitution. And no bye-laws relating to this Corporation or College, or whatever it is to be called, can be valid *without the ſanction of the Lord Treaſurer, the Lord Chancellor, and the two Lord Chief Juſtices for the time being, or three of them at the leaſt:* Therefore no wanton, or illegal inconvenience, can ever be laid upon the members at large.

The power of the council, then, to make bye-laws, is a civil truſt, having only theſe three objects

* Vide "Obſervations on the Surgeons Bill."

jects in view—The qualifications of practitioners—The ſupport of the dignity and privileges of the profeſſion, and the management of receipts and expences belonging to the inſtitution. Beyond theſe, and what relates to theſe, they can have no power; and whatever is directed to theſe, muſt be, upon the whole, advantageous to the members at large; and cannot admit of any ſubſtantial grievance, which will not ſpeedily correct itſelf.

The grand conſideration therefore is this—Seeing the overſight of theſe objects (and they are very important ones) muſt be entruſted ſomewhere, to whom ought Government to commit it? Is it a matter of perfect indifference; or ought they to be careful that they veſt it only in perſons of *tried* ability, and ſecure it, if poſſible, to a ſucceſſion of ſuch?—But of this ability in the ſucceſſors alſo ſomebody muſt judge; and the queſtion returns—To whom ſhould Government commit the choice of theſe ſucceſſors?—For to whomſoever this choice is committed, in one ſenſe every thing is committed.

Now it is contrary to all reaſon and experience to ſuppoſe, that in numerous bodies of men, all are equally qualified to preſide; or, which is nearly the ſame thing, to judge who ſhould preſide. Ability to practiſe Surgery is one thing; Ability to ſuperintend a College of Surgeons, is another:

The latter requires a degree of profeſſional experience, and knowledge of the world, which is not the lot of every man; and perhaps it will not be eaſy to find a better way of making this point ſecure, than by leaving the choice in queſtion to thoſe, who have been themſelves elected in like manner, and for like purpoſes, and who are bound by an oath to diſcharge the duties of their office, "*without* "*favour or affection.*"

I apprehend twenty-one perſons of this deſcription muſt be fully competent to every neceſſary purpoſe. Not that there is any peculiar charm in this number; but it is the old one, and where buſineſs can be ſafely tranſacted by a few, it is improper to commit it to more; not only becauſe it will be tranſacted with leſs confuſion and diſorder by a few, but becauſe it is more likely a few who are properly qualified, may always be found, than a greater number. It can do us no harm if more are qualified than are wanted to act; but it will do us a great deal, if more be appointed to act, than are properly qualified.

One principal plea for increaſing the number of officers, has been this—That it would have a greater tendency to promote emulation among the members. I very much doubt the validity of this aſſertion: For the more the number of officers is increaſed, the leſs is the rank and importance of each. It ſeems more calculated to promote

promote emulation, that a few only ſhould be appointed, but whoſe ſtations ſhall be permanent and worth having, than to multiply them beyond what is neceſſary for the tranſaction of buſineſs. I do not know how others may feel on the ſubject, but it certainly appears to me, that an honourable diſtinction, which ſhall be really a diſtinction, important and uſeful, reſerved for mature years, to laſt for life, and to be conferred by men of high rank in the profeſſion, in the name of their country, is moſt likely to excite the ambition of an ingenuous mind.

Let it alſo be conſidered how important it is for every profeſſional body to enſure a certain degree of rank at its head. Every teſtimonial of ability, authoriſing to practiſe, muſt come from thence to every member. As therefore the perſons are, who grant a teſtimonial, ſo is the value of the teſtimonial itſelf. Every member of a College is degraded, if the officers at its head have not that *eſtabliſhed* perſonal and profeſſional claim to reſpect and confidence, which may be *increaſed*, but cannot be *created*, by their official capacity.

It is very true that this reciprocal influence of perſonal and official dignity, is one of thoſe ſubjects, on which *the new light* has not yet condeſcended to ſhine. But it is well worth the conſideration of all who intermeddle in the formation of corporate bodies: They cannot long be maintained without

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it—This was a truth well known to our barbarous forefathers, and it may hereafter ſtart up again as a new diſcovery.

Of the bye-laws hitherto in force, one has been the ſubject of very ſevere animadverſion; namely, the eighth. By this it is ordained, "That no per-"ſon practiſing as an apothecary, or following any "other trade or occupation beſides the profeſſion "or buſineſs of a Surgeon, ſhall be capable of being "choſen into the Court of Aſſiſtants; or if he "ſhould be one of the Court of Aſſiſtants, be "eligible to the office of Maſter or Examiner."

It muſt readily be ſeen this law refers only to the *offices*, and not to the *fellowſhip* of the College, or Corporation. For to *the latter*, Practitioners in Pharmacy are equally admitted, with thoſe who devote themſelves wholly to Surgery; and are equally protected in the enjoyment of whatever confidence the public may honour them with. The point therefore to be conſidered, is—Whether there are any good reaſons for confining *The Government of a College of Surgeons*, in the metropolis of a great kingdom, to thoſe who are *Surgeons only*, and do not intermeddle with inferior branches of practice?

I apprehend if a ſimilar queſtion were aſked, in relation to any other profeſſion whatever, there would only one anſwer be given.

The

The circumſtances muſt be very rare, that will make a departure from this rule admiſſible; and if they ſhould occur, thoſe who ſuperintend the bye-laws will have full power to make the exception. But in proportion as thoſe are admitted to the offices, who *do not* confine themſelves to Surgery, thoſe who *do* muſt be excluded; a practice, which would at once be impolitic and abſurd: the proſperity and improvement of the art depending immediately on thoſe, who cultivate it ſeparately, and alone. For however neceſſary it may be, that ſome Surgeons in the military and naval departments, and in other ſituations, ſhould act in a twofold capacity, this is a neceſſity ariſing from contingent circumſtances, and not at all from the nature of the profeſſion.

It is very true, that confounding all diſtinctions will ſometimes wear the appearance of great liberality; but it is really no more than the appearance: For as Brutus once very ſeaſonably obſerved to his friend Cicero, "*Nihil per ſe amplum eſt, niſi in quo "judicii ratio exſtat.*"*—Nothing can be truly great in itſelf, which is unſound in its principle.

To conclude—In petitioning Parliament for a new act, on the plan of the laſt, the Surgeons Company have ſolicited for a redintegration of no other

* In Cicer. Epiſt. ad Brut. Lib. ſing.—Ep. 16.

other powers, than thoſe under which their ſcience has already flouriſhed, beyond all former example.

They have aſked for higher rank than they have hitherto poſſeſſed; becauſe it has been already beſtowed on their brethren in Scotland and Ireland, whoſe merits, great as they may be, cannot be ſuperior to their own.

They have aſked for a further exemption from the ſtatute of Mortmain, that they may be enabled, in time, to make a permanent proviſion for their expenditure; becauſe the ſame exemption, to the ſame amount, has already been granted to the Colleges of Edinburgh and Dublin.

They have aſked for an addition of three miles to their juriſdiction, for the public good and ſafety only; becauſe the means of inſtruction are now ſo much eaſier of acceſs, that it is doubly diſgraceful practitioners ſhould be ſuffered, who are deſtitute of proper information.

They have requeſted that meetings may in future be legally held in the preſence of one Preſident, or Vice-Preſident, inſtead of two, in order that buſineſs may be tranſacted with more certainty and eaſe, and the late deficiency in their Conſtitution be prevented in future.

This

This is the ſum of their petition.——Should this be granted, (and ſurely it will not again be refuſed) the preſent ſtate of their funds will permit them to exonerate their members from the further payment of quarterage; and they will be enabled to ſet on foot an eſtabliſhment for Chirurgical Inſtruction, greatly needed, and loudly called for, by every principle of policy, and national juſtice.

FINIS.